



Barnham
Parish Council

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Eastergate Parish Council



This is the fourth joint Eastergate and Barnham parish newsletter as part of our goal to combine our parish resources, funds and skills on key projects whilst preserving the individually strong historic and cultural identities of the villages of Barnham and Eastergate.

This newsletter is a taster of some of the big topics that we are focussed on. More information on all the subjects covered here, and others, can be found on the Parish web-sites arun.gov.uk/barnham and arun.gov.uk/eastergate.

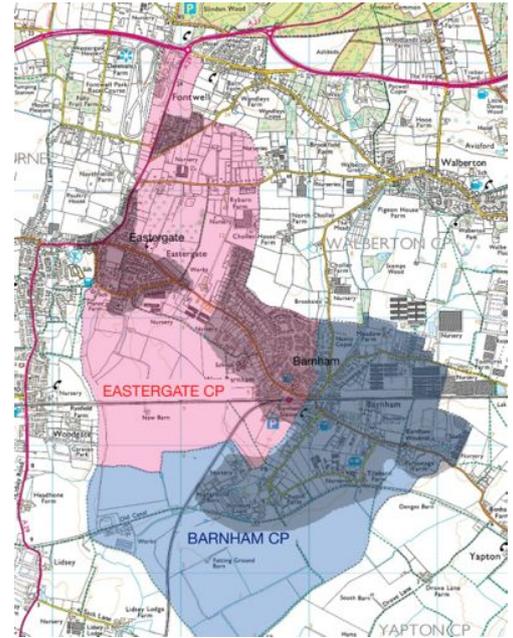
Parish Assemblies

Once a year the Parish Councils host an Assembly. This is not a Parish Council meeting, but an opportunity for organisations and societies in the Parish to report on their activities. In addition there are often short presentations on important topics of relevance to our communities. If you would like to spread the word on your club, society or charity, please contact the Parish Clerk for inclusion in the Assembly. More detail will be published closer to the time on the Parish websites, and noticeboards.

Dates: Barnham Monday 12th May 1900 hrs Barnham Community Hall
Eastergate Thursday 1st May 1930 hrs Eastergate Parish Hall

David Phillips

John Allott



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New Year Reflections

2013 was an incredibly challenging year with many volunteers working hard to make our parishes a better place. The £1.5m Barnham Community Hall and Park was opened in May-13 and is developing as a social enterprise. The Neighbourhood Plan team have been working tirelessly and have now submitted the document for the process of independent inspection which will be followed by a local referendum prior to adoption. Alongside these enormous investments we've also had the public debate over the Arun Local Plan; the threat of a new town; developers seeking to build houses on inappropriate sites and; the eternal issue of flooding and drainage.

Planning the District There are two plans that establish where housing, businesses, infrastructure, green space etc. will be developed in our villages. The Local Plan is created by Arun District Council for the whole district and at a vote on the 8th January it was decided to re-examine the strategic housing sites. What this means is the 2,500 house Garden City proposal is currently on hold. We therefore wait, with other communities in the District, to see where ADC proposes to put 580 houses per year for the next two decades.

The other plan is created specifically for the villages of Barnham and Eastergate and is called a Neighbourhood Plan. In April we will get the inspector's feedback on our Neighbourhood Plan. This is an important step toward adoption as, in the absence of a Local Plan, our Neighbourhood Plan gives us the policy framework to achieve better control of planning in our community and to resist

inappropriate developments. For a few months therefore we wait and it's important that we use this period for rest, reflection and reorganisation.

Working Together

By April the parish councils propose to bring together representatives of the volunteer groups in the two parishes (Barnham and Eastergate) that have been at the forefront of major community investments and campaigning for a sustainable Local Plan. Using the Neighbourhood Plan evidence base we hope to set clear priorities and ask small groups to take key projects forward.

The Bigger Picture

Our final reflection is with regard to the parish councils' and the broader community relationship with Arun District Council. The events of 2013 have placed enormous strain on many important working relationships with officers and elected councillors. We must remember however these relationships are at the heart of the local democratic processes. We need to make and present our arguments in such a way that positive and professional relationships are preserved. In this regard we thank our elected District Councillors (Cllr John Charles, Cllr. Mrs Jean Goad, Cllr. Dougal Maconachie). We also thank County Councillor Derek Whittington and Nick Herbert, MP who has been working to influence national planning policy to preserve our villages.

Both parish councils hope that in 2014 we can build more positive and less confrontational relationships with ADC. This won't mean we always agree but if positions do not become entrenched then compromise is more likely.

Neighbourhood Plan

All across the UK, following the Localism Act, villages and communities are creating their own Neighbourhood Plans. Barnham and Eastergate have combined to produce our Neighbourhood Plan.

What this means is that local people can influence what happens in their neighbourhood over the next 15 years. The objective of a Neighbourhood Plan is to say what we want in our villages to make them attractive places to live and work.

The Barnham and Eastergate Neighbourhood Plan, with all the evidence, can be found on the parish web-sites.

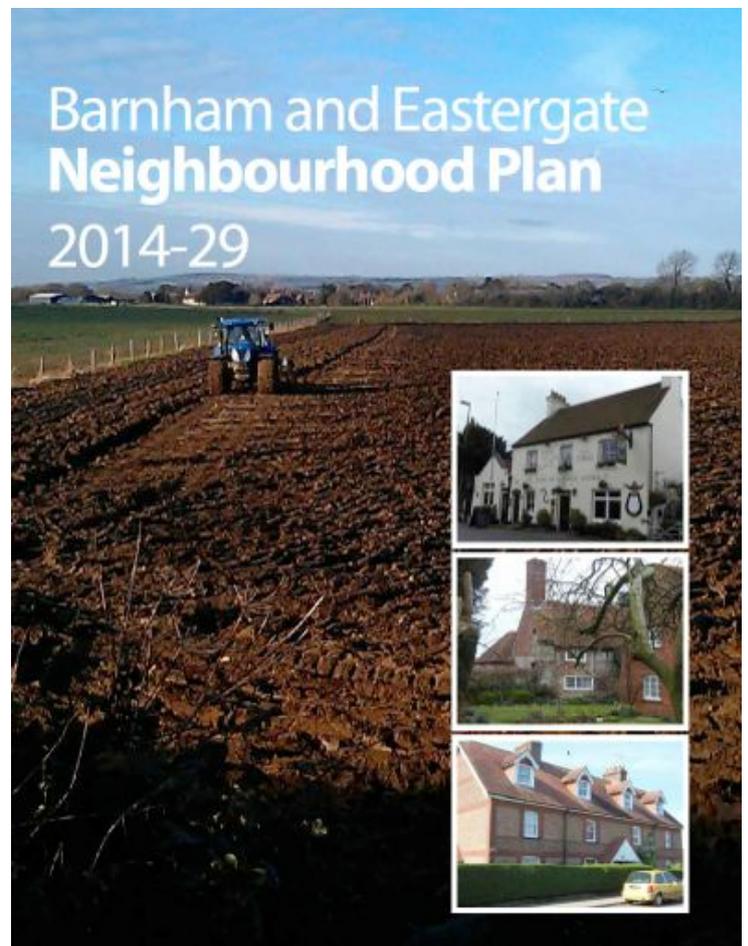
Our Neighbourhood Plan has been submitted to Arun District Council. They will add their comments and pass it to the Independent Inspector for examination. After the inspector's report some action may need to be taken towards the end of April. The Plan then moves to Referendum on 2 July.

Firstly a massive thank you to all those that contributed to our Neighbourhood Plan: Keith Allfrey, Maureen Chaffe, Phil Cole, Neil Cranfield, Simon Deacon, Elizabeth Folman, Richard Hammond, Philippa Hind, Jude Holland, Hazel Lloyd, David Lloyd, John Mason, Philip Peters, David Phillips, Sarah Povey, Gerry Reeves, Scott Robertson, Chris Shrubshall, Eddie Tarbard, Ian Truin, Roy Whitby, Stephen White.

The history of our Neighbourhood Plan started in 2012 with a survey to all households. This confirmed the parish councils' views about the key difficulties and issues in the villages. Volunteers were sought and the initial meeting was in July 2012. This meeting set up working groups to progress essential topics - housing, flooding, environment etc.

Overall progress was steady but slow for the remainder of 2012 and the start of 2013 but almost ground to a halt in the Spring. The continual success of speculative developers in gaining planning permission for their large housing estates combined with negative publicity about Neighbourhood Planning all had a demoralising effect.

In the summer however it became clear that, in the absence of a Local Plan from Arun District Council, the only thing the parish councils could do about speculative development was to produce a Neighbourhood Plan as soon as possible and funds were made available for professionals to support the volunteer team. Maureen Chaffe of Process Matters was engaged and



took on the role of drafting the document and holding regular meetings to complete weekly tasks. In October Public Consultation events were held in the two parishes.

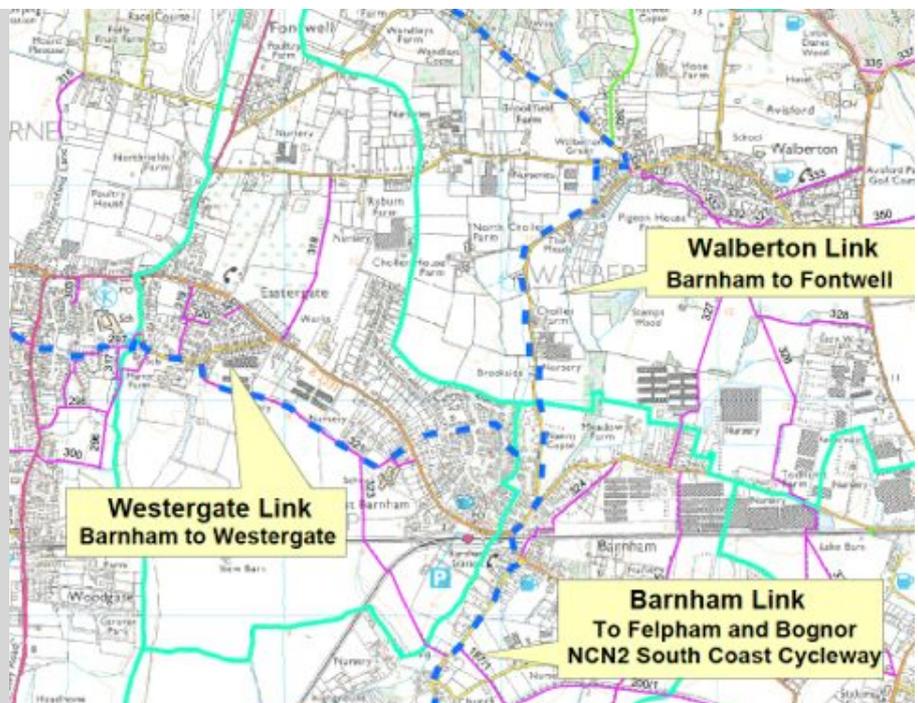
An estimated 100 days of volunteer effort went into developing the Neighbourhood Plan. On the 19th January the final document was delivered. The parishes are extremely fortunate that such talented individuals gave up so much of their personal time for the benefit of the community.

So what happens next? The Neighbourhood Plan will be checked for legal conformance and after any necessary modifications will be put to a referendum across the two villages, where every voter in Barnham and Eastergate will have the chance to vote on it on July 2nd 2014.

Cycle-ways

Plans for an off-road, safer footpath and cycleway from Barnham to Walberton had reached detailed design stage last autumn when news was received that funding would be available through the South Downs National Park to create easier access routes into the Park from railway stations. This funding has meant that the projected route to Walberton can now be continued up to the bridleway underpass at Fontwell. The money is available via the Park Authority to WSCC and work will now also include the resolution of the flooding problems north of Choller Farm.

Completion is due by March 2014



Flooding and Drainage

The good news is that over an extremely wet winter Barnham has escaped serious flooding (so far). This is in contrast to the two flooding events in 2012 and regular flooding most years going back to the 1993 major flood. The actions to maintain the rifes together with the all too familiar pumping lorries around the villages have had a positive effect. We must not however be complacent as pumping is not a sustainable solution and simply masks the defects in the sewage system.

Sadly surrounding areas have not been so fortunate in particular at the Lidsey bends and Aldingbourne on the A29. West Sussex County Council and the Environment Agency are investing to improve drainage which is to be applauded but the A29 road closures clearly illustrate how challenging that this problem is.

The responsible authorities and utilities are clearly only just keeping pace with the infrastructure problems. Adding to this new houses and changing rainfall patterns means that we must keep pressing for a responsible approach to building on a vulnerable flood plain in the Lidsey catchment area. More studies are required, and expected, on Lidsey drainage and local rifes.

Regrettably there are already approved hundreds of houses in the villages whose foul sewerage is to be processed by packet sewage systems (private mini-sewerage treatment plants that process the sewage and pump clean water into the rifes).

We continue to believe that these systems are not sustainable and that we risk major pollution from poorly maintained systems. Such solutions have been an easy way for developers



to get around the problems with sewage capacity in the villages but they will take their profits on completion and won't be here when the problems occur.

We are pressing Southern Water to make clear its intentions on sewage systems and to confirm whether the Lidsey waste water Treatment Plant will have the capacity long term to support a growth of over 500 houses in the villages that have already been awarded planning permission.

Local Plan

This will eventually be a blueprint for how Arun District will develop over the next two decades – housing, infrastructure, jobs, leisure and environment. It has not run according to plan and most people will know about it simply as a threat of 2,500 houses in a new "Garden City" on the green fields between Barnham, Eastergate and Aldingbourne with a new A29 that passes through the strategic gap between Barnham and

On the 8th January Arun's elected councillors rejected the proposals put to them by their Local Plan team and Sub-Committee for the Garden City. For the moment however they have kept the enormous housing target of 580 new homes per year for the next two decades. Where these houses might be built remains unanswered and the justification for this number is unclear.

Arun's Local Plan is therefore a long way behind schedule leaving the Villages particularly vulnerable to predatory developers foisting an unsustainable chaos of housing estates onto our communities and green fields. This makes it even more important that we succeed with our Neighbourhood Plan. We must also work with Arun to make up lost ground on their Local Plan.

Nick Herbert MP lobbied (see extracts of letter inset) for a lower number ahead of the Local Plan Sub-Committee meeting in November as did Barnham and Eastergate Parish Council and the Village Action Group. It is our view that this number is unsustainable and is what drives the need for large strategic housing sites rather than natural and sustainable extensions to the existing towns and villages.

Nick Herbert MP wrote to members of the Arun District Council Local Plan Sub-Committee ahead of their meeting on Thursday 28 November 2013

He said

"I continue to believe that the Strategic Housing Market Assessment process adopted by the Council is flawed.

... a housing "target" for Arun in the range of 550-650 houses a year over 15 years is a fundamental error.

The National Planning Policy Framework is clear that a local plan CAN deliver a lower number of houses than the objectively assessed need "... if any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits"

**For the full text of this letter see:
www.nickherbert.com/media_centre.php/659/arun-district-council-local-plan**

The A29 flooding may have had a significant influence on Arun's vote and well illustrates the sustainability issues associated with building on the open countryside. This decision however will put unwelcome pressure on other parts of the District such as Rustington and Bersted. We must therefore keep pushing for a lower figure to be adopted and justified.

Six Villages Youth Club

It is not far off 3 years since the Six Villages Youth Club at Westgate closed due to funding cuts. It has been a great loss for the 6 Villages.

We are looking to re-start the Youth Club at Barnham Community Hall and there is a meeting on the **27th March 2014 at 7:30pm** at the Hall for parents; those interested in volunteering and; representatives from other Youth Clubs.

If you have any would like more information or would like to register your interest in volunteering please email youthclub@barnhamcommunityhall.org or call Isabel on 07772 543 418.



In Brief

Good Cause(way)?

The first week of March should see the County Council starting the construction of a new footway from the south end of Foxes Croft to Lake Lane, bringing a dry, mud-free blacktop path for residents from the north of Barnham's Orchard estate to Lake Lane. This will provide a safer and shorter route night and day to the railway station, and, of course, to the Community Hall.

Contacts

Arun Councillors

Jean Goad	01243 552015
Dougal Maconachie	01243 862977
John Charles	07889 988612

Parish Councils

Barnham Parish Council (Clerk)	Alison Crabb 07565 052 617 barnhamparish@hotmail.co.uk
Eastergate Parish Council (Clerk)	Garry Sleet 01243 586511 g.sleet@btinternet.com

B.L.A.D.E.

Web site:	barnham.info
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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

Whats On

Sat March 1st	80's Music Night Barnham Community Hall www.barnhamcommunityhall.org
Sat. April 26th	Barnham's Big Barn Dance Barnham Community Hall BLADE www.barnham.info
Sat. June 7th	Music Night with live bands Barnham Community Hall & Park BLADE www.barnham.info
Sun. June 15th	Sponsored Bike Ride London to Brighton BLADE www.barnham.info
Wed July 2nd	Neighbourhood Plan Referendum Barnham Community Hall Eastergate Parish Hall
Sat. July 5th	Skittles Night Barnham Community Hall BLADE www.barnham.info
Sat. October 18th	Quiz Night Barnham Community Hall BLADE www.barnham.info
Sat. November 1st	Annual Firework Night Barnham Community Hall & Park BLADE www.barnham.info
Sat. December 6th	Christmas Music Concert Barnham Community Hall BLADE www.barnham.info

Volunteer Vacancies

Youth Priorities Project Leader

Investing for the young people of our parishes is one of our top priorities this year. Both parishes have some funds available to make appropriate investments as do the partner charities (BLADE and Barnham Community Hall Charitable Trust).

We have started to talk to our local schools and others involved in youth work but the current team has reached capacity. We plan to establish a focus group, determine key priorities and consult with residents. We are looking for a dynamic individual to lead this important work over a 6 to 9 month period. We believe that some investment in places for teenagers to 'hang-out' is likely to be a priority but we also want to engage their enthusiasm in the development, support and protection of our community. The role will involve community consultation meetings and presenting findings to the Parish Councils.

If anyone is interested in leading this work then please e-mail Chris Allington (callingt@gmail.com)