

Proposal to Steyning Parish Council that Steyning moves forward to create its own Neighbourhood Plan- from Gill Muncey and Liz Trundle

Now that the SWAB Neighbourhood Plan has been formally disbanded following the withdrawal of Wiston, Bramber and Ashurst, we wish to propose at full Council on 16th October 2017 that Steyning uses the work that has been done as a base to continue to prepare our own parish NP. We acknowledge that some work done to date will need to be revisited and updated to meet Horsham District Council's new, more stringent, requirements.

The main reasons for wanting to press ahead with our own Plan are:

- it means the £30k of public money and hours of effort expended to date are not discarded but will be used for the benefit of current and future residents.
- it will give us some degree of control over future land use in Steyning and the size and type of future housing. There will be continued pressure for house building in future years across southern England and we feel we should go through the proper process to assess Steyning's up to date housing needs and how these could be met, then let the community decide if residents are willing to allow any more housing in the town. Steyning has very few small, or affordable, homes due to many existing properties being extended and the existing housing needs survey shows that smaller/affordable homes are needed for local young people as well as older people wishing to downsize. Through the neighbourhood plan we can aim to ensure that any homes built are smaller, more affordable and are perhaps of a design that cannot easily be extended. We can perhaps also include policies about maintaining the use of building materials such as flint which reflect our historic vernacular. This would not occur from simple developer led development.
- even if we go through the process and find we have no sites acceptable to the South Downs National Park Authority and Horsham District Council or to over 50% of residents who vote in the referendum at least we can demonstrate that we have tried and that should in itself assist in protecting Steyning from unsuitable development in future.

John, our Clerk, has checked with Locality, and as a de-clustered area we are still eligible to apply for grants of up to £9000. Below is a Government statement issued last week about increased government funding for Neighbourhood Plans which should assist us. We will continue to work towards obtaining as much grant funding as possible to ensure that as little expenditure as possible falls on the Parish.

We propose starting the process with a Steering Group of 8 people, to include 3 parish councillors, if someone else will join us. We feel at least eight people are necessary to ensure meetings are quorate without the body becoming unmanageable. We plan to advertise widely to attract other residents with the skills, time and enthusiasm to take the project forward constructively from the existing point. All members of the new Steering Group will need to understand and accept that they will have to undertake significant work outside meetings to create the plan and key deliverable documents which includes writing planning policies etc. It won't be an easy task so we need the best!

This will be a community-led process, conducted as transparently as possible, taking forward the good work that has taken place so far. It is hoped that work can be completed by May 2019 when the current Parish Council term ends.

Announcement 5th October 2017: **Neighbourhood Planning News: 'Government announces £22.8m tranche of neighbourhood planning cash'**

DCLG announce the following:

'Government announces £22.8m tranche of neighbourhood planning cash'

The government has confirmed a fresh tranche of funding to support the development of neighbourhood plans across England. The Department for Communities and Local Government's offices in central London

In a statement yesterday, the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) said that £22.8 million would be made available between 2018 and 2022 to help community groups develop neighbourhood plans.

The funding follows a £22.5 million allocation announced in 2014 for the period 2015-2018.

DCLG said that more than 400 successful neighbourhood planning referendums have now taken place across England. Trudi Elliott, Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) chief executive, said: "Having worked directly with over 274 groups to help them develop neighbourhood plans since their inception, the RTPI knows how much people care about these plans and how important they are in shaping places and building public trust in the planning system. "It's also clear from our experience that people need support to make the plan-making experience easier and worthwhile, so this latest funding is very welcome."