

BARCOMBE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

CONSULTATION STATEMENT

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT EVENT: 14 JANUARY 2018

Background. In 2015 in consultation with members of its then Steering Group Barcombe Parish Council decided that its Neighbourhood Plan would focus only on housing development in the Parish as identified in the Lewes District Joint Core Strategy (JCS) Part 1 (adopted June 2016) and its forthcoming Part 2. A new Steering Group was formed to gather evidence and prepare a Neighbourhood Plan on this basis.

The last public consultation on housing provision in the parish took place in 2015 when a survey was carried out via a questionnaire circulated to all households in the Parish. The results were published in Summer 2015 (see planning section in www.barcombepc.net). Following the publications of the 2017 SHELAA in Autumn 2017 and the draft versions of the Lewes JCS Part 2 and associated documents in November 2017, the new Steering Group held a Public Engagement Event (PEE) on Sunday 14 January 2018. The aim was to consult on the evidence gathered during 2016/17 and to display details of the proposed housing development in Barcombe for the period to 2030 as given in the 2017 SHELAA and the Draft JCS Part 2.

Publicity. Announcements of the PEE were made in “Barcombe News” (monthly parish magazine circulated to all households in Parish), “Village News” section of the weekly “Sussex Express”, Village Notice Boards, Barcombe Community Facebook Page and local web-sites (Parish Council; University of Brighton Community21). A banner announcing the PEE was placed near the Village Sign at the northern end of the High Street. Invitations were sent by email to all parish organisations listed in “Barcombe News”.

Venue. Barcombe Village Hall: Main Hall

Format. The PEE was based on a series of large posters displayed vertically in the Hall together with “table-top” map and free writing space. Also on display were examples of building materials. The posters referred to the following topics:

- Barcombe Neighbourhood Plan (including 2017 SHELAA identified sites)
- Sites and Boundaries (based on 2017 Draft JCS Part 2 allocations)
- Housing Materials and Types (associated with table top display of building materials)
- Design Statement
- Social Spaces and Paths
- Wild Life, Water and Woodland

“Table-top” displays covered the following subjects:

- Building materials
- Free writing space
- Map of Barcombe Cross Village

- Summaries and full copies of documents drafted by the Steering Group (Community Profile; Housing Profile; General Housing Policies; Bridgelands/Hillside Specific Policies; Design Statement)

Prior to the weekend of the PEE copies of the documents drafted by the Steering Group (Community Profile; Housing Profile; General Housing Policies; Bridgelands/Hillside Specific Policies; Design Statement) were posted on the Parish Council and University of Brighton Community21 web-sites.

In addition, postcard sized cards were available in the Hall referring to (1) contact details for the Steering Group and Neighbourhood Plan stages; (2) feedback contact cards (with collection bin at Hall exit door).

Times. Two start times were publicised, viz. 2 and 3 pm. Welcome addresses and information about the PEE were given at 2.30 and 3.30 pm by the Parish Council Chairman and Chairman of the Steering Group.

Attendance. It was estimated that a total of some 120 residents attended the PEE with representation from many parts of the Parish, i.e. Barcombe Mills, Church Road/Mill Lane, Hamsey Road, Spithurst and Barcombe Cross.

Outcomes. The comments received are detailed in the accompanying papers. The main points are as follows.

1. The number of Comment Cards expressing satisfaction with the PEE exercise.
2. Many of the comments were highly individualistic and numerous dealt with topics outside the remit of the Steering Group. The attention of the Parish Council has been drawn to several of the latter.
3. Virtually all of the comments dealt with the Barcombe housing allocations (number, sites) made in the JCS Part 1 and draft Part 2 and associated themes. None dealt with the Policy and Profile papers drafted by the Steering Group, although many of the public consulted these papers. An explanation may lie in the PEE being the first opportunity for the Barcombe public to view and discuss the housing allocations (both numbers and sites). No responses were received by email.
4. The main identifiable single issues were as follows.
 - Affordable housing particularly for young people. This supports policy statements in the draft General Housing Policies; ACTION - undertake further considerations with a view to strengthening proposals.
 - Housing for elderly. A mixture of views from the need for properties for down-sizing to a home for the elderly. These support policy statements in the draft General Housing Policies; ACTION - undertake further considerations with a view to strengthening proposals.
 - Car parking/traffic generation/traffic calming. Car parking is included in the draft General Housing Policies but many points made are rather outside remit of Steering Group.

ACTION - investigate if mini-roundabouts could be proposed in Neighbourhood Plan.

- Footpaths. In the main this topic is outside the remit of the Steering Group but does support proposals in Bridgelands/Hillside Site Specific Policies for footpaths to Village facilities.
- Wildlife. Effect of development on wildlife highlighted.
ACTION - need further clarification of issues for inclusion in Neighbourhood Plan.

Steering Group
Barcombe Neighbourhood Plan
February 2018