

Statement of Community Involvement

On 7 March 2013, the Parish of Rottingdean was formally designated a Neighbourhood Plan area. Rottingdean Parish Council was recognised as an appropriate body to develop a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish.

The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group (the local steering group) was established to take forward consultation and the drawing up of the Plan.

A questionnaire at our Annual Village Meeting in April 2013 helped shape a wider more in-depth consultation process. In June 2013, we held two focus group meetings. These were attended by 47 individuals, representing 21 community organisations and venues, local schools, churches, nursing homes, health services, ward councillors and residents.

These open meetings were focussed on issues frequently raised with the Parish Council and the feedback helped us to develop themes for further exploration through a village survey. We worked with Brighton and Hove City Council to construct a questionnaire which would give us valid responses on which to base the objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan. This questionnaire was delivered to all households in the Parish and yielded a 12% response.

In 2020 we conducted a second village-wide survey to check on priorities within the Parish. This was completed by 13% of residents.

Feedback from the community enabled us to draw up a draft vision for the Plan and to pull out some key themes for further development.

We consulted on the Vision and Objectives via the website over the summer and through our stall at the Village Fair in August 2013. We received 49 responses, including 10 from out with the Parish. This consultation led to a refinement of our Planned Housing Growth objective.

In February 2014, we consulted the Preservation Society on planning and heritage matters. We also held an Economic Development & Tourism Conference in Rottingdean, as this was an area of policy which had been largely undeveloped in the village until then. Feedback from this conference helped inform the Neighbourhood Plan from a business and visitor economy perspective.

In February 2015, we conducted a comprehensive Housing Needs Survey in the Parish. In November 2015 we published a Call For Sites notice on our website, resulting in an additional greenfield site being put forward by its owners. We assessed this site as being unsuitable for development, given its location and access issues. The owners of the former St Aubyns School site, also contacted us to propose the entire site as suitable for development but we had already worked in partnership with the City Council and the owners to produce the Planning Brief for this site which had been adopted by the City Council in January 2015 and subsequently reflected in the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment 2017.

We drew on the findings of the Housing Needs Survey to develop our Housing and Design policies.

Over the period of the development of our Neighbourhood Plan, we have reported regularly to the monthly open meetings of the Parish Council and responded to questions from the floor and via the website. The Neighbourhood Plan has been an agenda item at our Annual Village Meetings where there is an extended session of public participation. Again, we report on the Neighbourhood Plan in our Annual Newsletter which is delivered to every door in the Parish.