



Neighbourhood plan

Barcombe is a small village located in East Sussex, England, situated approximately 6 miles north of Lewes and 12 miles east of Brighton. The village is home to around 1,600 residents and covers an area of roughly 3 square miles.

Barcombe has a rich history, with evidence of settlement in the area dating back to the Bronze Age. The village is surrounded by beautiful countryside, with the River Ouse running through it, and the South Downs National Park located just to the south. This makes it a popular destination for outdoor enthusiasts, with plenty of walking and cycling routes to explore.

Barcombe is home to a number of local amenities, including a primary school, village hall, post office, public house and local shop.

The Barcombe Neighbourhood Plan has been designed to determine the nature of preservation and development initiatives in the Parish during the period from 2025 to 2040. In doing so Barcombe is taking the opportunity presented to communities to have more control over development in their areas under the Localism Act [2011] and the related Neighbourhood Plan Regulations [2012].

Neighbourhood Plans are a government initiative aimed at local public participation in the planning process, and, once adopted, the policies contained in a Neighbourhood Plan become an integral part of the planning

considerations related to development in that area. However, it must be noted that a Neighbourhood Plan cannot contradict or over-ride national or district Council planning policy, and so is intended to add detail and reflect local knowledge.

Following an application by Barcombe Parish Council [BPC] in January 2015, Lewes District Council [Lewes DC] designated the whole of the parish of Barcombe as a Neighbourhood Area.

A previous initiative to produce a Neighbourhood Plan was started by Barcombe Parish Council in 2015. Although significant amount of valuable work was done on the NP at the time, work was stopped in 2018 for a number of good reasons. However, on the basis that Neighbourhood Plans is an essential element of the planning process with new legislation, in 2022 the Parish Council decided to restart the production of their Neighbourhood Plan.

A small Steering Group was set up to consider the options available to the Parish Council and whether a new Neighbourhood Plan would be a valuable tool for use by the village in determining its future requirements. The Parish Council signed off on the Terms of Reference of the new Steering Group early in 2023.

At the start there were a number of changes to legislation that required consideration, not least the Governments Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill, the changes to the National Planning Policy Framework and Lewes District Council's new Local Plan.

Why Produce a Neighbourhood Plan for Barcombe?

Producing a NP for Barcombe can bring numerous benefits and advantages. Here are some of the key reasons for the Parish Council undertaking this project:

Community Engagement: Developing a NP involves active participation and engagement from the local community. It provides an opportunity for residents, businesses, and other stakeholders to come together, collaborate, and shape the future of their village. This inclusive process encourages democracy, promotes a sense of ownership, and fosters community spirit.

Local Vision and Aspirations: A NP allows the community to articulate their vision for the future of the village. It enables residents to express their aspirations, identify local priorities, and set goals that reflect the unique character, heritage, and values of the area. By creating a shared vision, the NP ensures that development aligns with the desires and needs of the community.

Planning Policy Influence: A NP empowers the community to influence planning policies and decisions at a local level. It provides an opportunity to define specific policies and guidelines that will govern development, land use, housing, infrastructure, environmental protection, and other relevant aspects within the village. By having a say in the planning process, residents can shape their village's future and preserve its distinct identity.

Protection of Local Assets: Producing a NP allows for the identification and protection of important local assets and amenities. This includes safeguarding green spaces, historical sites, cultural heritage, community facilities, and other cherished features. By mapping out these assets and establishing policies to conserve and enhance them, the NP helps preserve the village's character and quality of life.

Addressing Local Needs: The neighbourhood planning process enables the community to address specific local needs and challenges. This could involve addressing issues related to housing affordability, transportation, infrastructure improvements, access to services, environmental sustainability, or any other concerns identified by the community. The plan provides a platform to find appropriate solutions and create a more inclusive and sustainable village.

Influence on Development Proposals: An NP carries significant weight in the planning process. Once adopted, it becomes a legal document and forms part of the statutory development plan. This means that any development proposals within the village must be assessed against the policies and guidelines outlined in the NP. By having a well-defined plan, the community can influence and shape future development, ensuring that it aligns with their vision and aspirations.

Access to Funding and Resources: Neighbourhood plans can unlock access to funding opportunities and resources. Depending on the region and country, various grants and support programs are often available to communities with an adopted NP. These resources can assist in implementing projects, carrying out improvements, and making the vision

outlined in the plan a reality. By producing a NP, our village can foster community engagement, articulate a shared vision, influence planning policies, protect local assets, address local needs, shape development proposals, and access funding and resources. It is a powerful tool that empowers the community to take control of its future and ensure sustainable and inclusive development.