

Heritage and Community Emerging Priorities

A number of heritage and community areas have been considered by the Heritage Group, some of which could potentially be developed for use within the community as well as to attract further tourism

Bramber Castle

As a Scheduled Ancient Monument, Bramber Castle is fully protected by English Heritage, but we feel that further information about Bramber Castle could be made available and closer links forged with English Heritage.

e.g. The use of QR codes in cultural heritage tourism is increasing and is a way of encouraging people to further explore the site they are visiting.



St. Nicholas & St. Botolphs Churches



Both of the churches in the parish are rich in history but are used only infrequently for services. There is the potential for further use of these churches for community and cultural events. Music and dramatic performances have been put on in the churches, as well as being the venue for art exhibitions.

However, to further develop their use in the community would require the addition of toilet facilities, something that we are exploring for St. Nicholas.



St.Mary's House and Gardens

St. Mary's House is a Grade 1 listed building of national importance. Occupation at the site dates back to the time of the Norman Conquest and the 15th Century timber framed house contains fine panelled interiors, including the unique Elizabethan 'Painted Room'. A regular series of concerts and events take place in the Victorian Music Room, which is also licensed for weddings.



Attached to the house are five acres of beautiful gardens, with an exceptional example of the prehistoric Ginkgo Biloba tree and animal topiary. There is also the 'Secret' Garden with an original Victorian fruit wall and pineapple pits, beautiful rose garden, terracotta garden, King's Garden, circular English Poetry Garden, landscape water garden and Rural Museum.

Many groups and individuals visit St. Mary's during the year and we feel that the development of an Education Centre could further increase the visitor experience and community engagement.

Horsham District Year of Culture 2019

Planned for the Horsham District Year of Culture 2019 is a themed event, starting at St. Nicholas Church and move on through the castle to St. Mary's House. Hopefully this event will help bring these heritage sites to the public view in a new way and enforce their place in the community



A NORMANS' TALE

Saturday 27th April 2.30pm

Join us as we journey into the past and follow in the footsteps of the early inhabitants of Bramber and Upper Beeding!

An exciting promenade performance will bring the history of the area to life and guide audiences through a variety of venues and spaces including Bramber Castle, St Mary's House and the churches of St Nicholas and St Peter.

Performed by locally based company *This is my Theatre* with live music - this will delight audiences of all ages.

A free event with ticketed allocation. Please note walking between performance sites is required. Some venues are outside and the terrain is uneven in places so please wear appropriate footwear and clothing

Visit www.steyningsouthdowns.co.uk for more information.



Tourism and Commerce Emerging Priorities

Hotel and Visitor Accommodation



The Street in Bramber boasts 2 hotels with accommodation, one of which is also a public house, as well as 2 restaurants.



During the SWAB research, it was felt that there would be support for extensions of these venues if viable.

We are keen to gauge local feeling as to whether there is a perceived need for any expansion of hotel and visitor accommodation facilities



Retail and Local Business

In addition to the Hotels and Restaurants in the parish there are also a number of other local businesses, which include

- Mobile trade
- Home workers
- Local farming industry
- Annington Commercial Centre



Business Survey: October 2018

We invited as many of the local businesses as we were aware of to take part in a Business Survey during October 2018

We hope to be able to use the results of the survey to understand the needs and challenges of a local business in the area and to draw up policies about local business in the parish

Of the 30 businesses that were invited to take part, a response was received from 9 of them

If you are a local business and did not take part in the survey for any reason, please take one of the printed copies and complete so that we can include you in our results. If we did not contact you then please leave us your details, so we can include you in our list of local businesses



Questions that will help us with our policies

For each of the areas covered by our group we have made some suggestions as to where we need to seek the views of the local community to help shape our policies for the Neighbourhood Plan. Please tell us what you think – and what is missing!

Community

Safeguarding and expanding existing community facilities?

Are there any leisure / recreation facilities needed locally?

Or improvements to existing ones?

Anything specifically for different age groups missing?

Public Buses / Community Transport

Heritage

Are there any heritage assets that are not already protected?

Can you suggest any heritage buildings/structures that should be protected?



Tourism

Education centre at St Mary's house

Expansion of hotels

Improved linkages between the attractions/sites and better signage

Improved links to the countryside

Bramber Brooks – will this help attract more visitors to the area?



Local business

Protecting the retail areas

Support for home workers

Protecting farming heritage

Supporting local businesses and business growth

Public transport – is it sufficient?

