



SHOREHAM BEACH RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

March 2014

ROLLING OUT PROPOSALS FOR A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Proposals to draw up a planning blueprint for Shoreham Beach were rolled out at Shoreham Beach Residents' Association's AGM on February 22.

SBRA has joined forces with concerned residents to form a steering group to look at the pros and cons of neighbourhood plans, and possible implications for Marine Ward.

Neighbourhood Plans – which aim to give local people the chance to secure sympathetic development for their communities – were created by the Localism Act of 2011 and already 500 are under development across the country, including Sompting.

The plans can be detailed or general, depending on what local people want – and are finalised in conjunction with local planning authorities, who have a legal obligation to help. Funds can also be secured to help cover set-up costs.

Once implemented, planning authorities and Government inspectors have a legal duty to consider the plan in their policies when deciding applications, both locally and at appeal.

If approved, the neighbourhood plan must:

- Not challenge the Local Plan (currently in draft format)
- Cover a clearly defined area, delineated by red lines drawn on a map
- Be supported by an evidence base – possibly comprising surveys, demographics, planning statistics and a characterisation study.

If the community decides to press ahead, a final decision will be made via a residents' referendum. At least 50 per cent of supporting votes will be required and the whole process is likely to take at least one year.

For more details about the legalities and powers of a neighbourhood plan, visit www.gov.uk/government/policies/giving-communities-more-power-in-planning-local-development/supporting-pages/neighbourhood-planning

For more information about SBRA visit www.shorehambeachra.co.uk

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