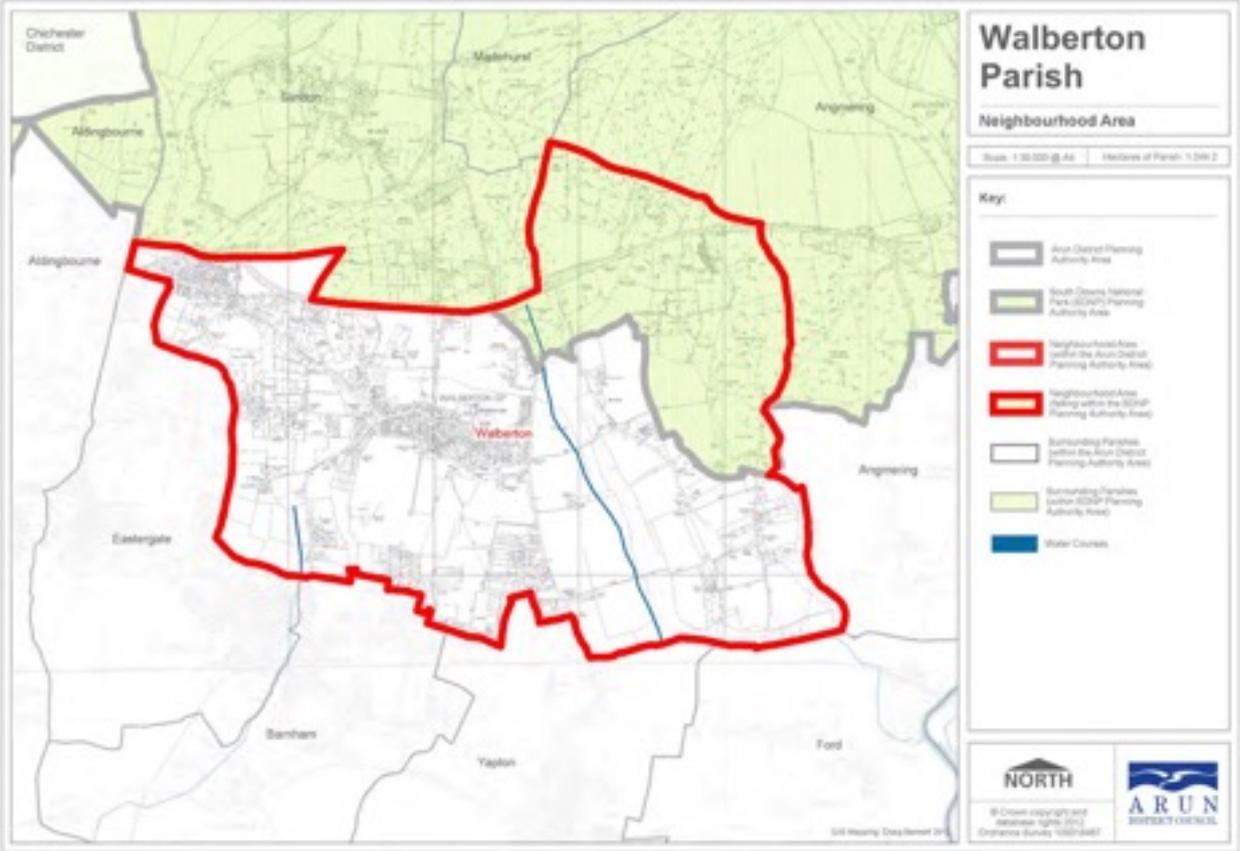


Walberton, Binsted and Fontwell Neighbourhood Plan

State of the Parish Report

March 2015

Map of the Plan Area



1. Introduction

1.1 Background

This Statement has been prepared by Walberton Parish Council (“the Parish Council”) to accompany its submission to the local planning authority, Arun District Council (ADC), of the Walberton, Binsted and Fontwell Neighbourhood Development Plan (WBFNDP) (“the Neighbourhood Plan”) under Regulations 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (“the Regulations”).

1.2 Process

The Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared by the Parish Council, a qualifying body, for the Neighbourhood Area covering the whole of the Parish of Walberton, as designated by the Local Plan Sub- Committee of Arun District Council on 29 November 2012 (see Plan A).

The purpose of preparing and seeking final adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan is in accordance with the Regulations and has been agreed by the Parish Council. It is intended that the Neighbourhood Plan will go forward for consultation in summer 2015.

1.3 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to summarise the evidence base and the context within which the Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared. It identifies the sustainability issues within the parish and sets out a framework within which the economic, social and environmental issues in the Neighbourhood Plan will be used to determine its detailed policies and proposals.

2. Parish Profile

2.1 The Parish

The Parish of Walberton covers an area of 1,044.19 hectares and has a population of 2,174 (2011 Census). This civil parish in fact includes three distinct communities: Walberton Village, Fontwell Village and Binsted.

The three villages lie within one single Civil Parish, the council of which provides Local Government services at the geographical area – but the Parochial Church Council is concerned with Church (of England), rather than secular, matters.]

Binsted

Binsted has the smallest population of the three villages: developmentally it is almost distinct (it being separated from Walberton except fragmentally along Hedgers Hill) and, in any case, its buildings are very dispersed albeit mostly along a single road. Apart from its small church and a pub/restaurant, it has no publicly accessible amenities. Inevitably, therefore, it has a markedly different character to the other two villages.

Fontwell

Fontwell is a more compact settlement than Binsted, but because it is joined to Walberton by almost continuous development along West Walberton Lane, its limits are less easily differentiated. There has been proportionally significant new development here in recent years. It is well-known nationally for its racecourse, which regularly stages National Hunt races and other events attracting large crowds. However, although the impacts of events and of the visitors drawn to the site are evident in the village, especially the parking of cars, the racecourse itself lies just beyond the boundary. There are a number of amenities for residents, including shops (with some intriguing specialisms) and a children's play area. These are supplemented by a filling station (with attached 'general' store), restaurant and hotel, all situated adjacent to the A27/A29 junction – primarily intended for the passing road traffic, but nevertheless useful for residents. Close by, and directly serving the racecourse, are another hotel and a public house.

Walberton

Walberton lies between Binsted and Fontwell, and is the largest of the three. It has an essentially linear form, with development either side of The Street, and along the roads leading into it at its east and west ends. There are two main foci: the area around the Church and shops; and, at the opposite end of The Street, the village green and pond. The age of the buildings is varied, with no one period or architectural style dominating. St Mary's Church is probably the most significant of the remaining historic buildings, but there are several which have been listed (as being of historic or architectural interest) and two Conservation Areas covering a substantial combined area. Now lost (or converted to other uses) are buildings related to milling, brewing, and petrol sales – whilst extant names hark back to activities which have now changed location (such as the Store, Post Office and School House). In living memory there were a greater number and variety of retail outlets, but those that remain can now all be found in Maple Parade (plus a

chainsaw/lawnmower outlet off Yapton Lane), including a peripatetic fishmonger.

The number of public houses has reduced to one.

Its agricultural origins extend way back into the past: a Roman farm site lies just to the east of the village, beyond Blacksmith's Corner. Farming is still important (there are a number of farms in the parish), but it is no longer the dominant economic activity. Most of the economically active population leave the village to work – but increasingly people work from home (regularly or occasionally). Correspondingly, some people come into the villages from elsewhere to work: daily or less frequently. Horticulture is now very apparent in the form of glasshouses (especially off Yapton Lane), but other employment premises can be found: some small such as in The William Booker Yard, some of medium size such as at Hooe Farm in Tye Lane, and some much larger such as Fordingbridge on Arundel Road. Large employers also include the Avisford Park Hotel, a nursing home, and the Primary School. [Children attend this school up to the age of 11, and then go on to secondary schools in Barnham, Westergate, or further away.]

As well as St Mary's Church in Walberton and its counterpart of the same name in Binsted, Christian worship is also conducted at the Baptist Church on The Street. Each has community meeting accommodation – but in addition there is a modern village hall, a sports pavilion and a new building is being built to house children's breakfast club, pre and after school, and holiday programmes. There is a sizeable playing field (with cricket and football as its main sports), a children's playground, and an 18-hole golf course. Just one Public House remains in Walberton, now with a large restaurant. Clubs and societies abound, including an active drama and operatic group which provides performances for the public (in the village hall).

The residential caravan park at Havenwood must also be mentioned here as a notable area of development which is located somewhat apart from the other main concentrations of homes.

There are no notable tourist attractions as such in the parish (apart from the racecourse just outside), but there are holiday cottages to let and a number of bed and breakfast establishments.

Selected Parish Statistics

The following statistics are drawn from the 2011 Census data. These are used to provide an overview of the current status of the community. For comparison the relevant % across England is shown in brackets.

Demographics

The usual (permanent) resident population of the parish is 2,175 people consisting of 1,065 males and 1,120 females.

Of these:

385 People aged 15 and under = 17.6% (18.9%)

1,255 People aged 16 to 64 = 57.6% (64.7%)

540 People aged 65 and over = 24.7% (18.9%)

15 females and 10 males are over 90

Economic Status of residents

Of the 2,175 usual residents of the parish, 1,121 were aged between 16 and 74 of whom:

- a) 1,050 (69.2%) were economically active:
 - 510 were Employed full-time = 33.6% (38.6%)
 - 230 were Employed part-time = 15.2% (13.7%)
 - 230 were Self-employed = 15.1% (9.8%)
 - 20 job seeker allowance claimants = 1.6% (3.9%)

- b) 470 (30.8%) were economically inactive:
 - 149 were Retired = 26.6% (13.7%)
 - 12 were Students = 2.1% (5.8%)
 - 26 were Looking after home or family = 4.6% (4.4%)
 - 11 were Long-term sick or disabled = 2% (4%)
 - 6 were classified as other = 1.1% (0.8%)

Occupations

Of 1,052 residents in the parish in employment and aged between 16 and 74:

- 165 were Managers, Directors and Senior Officials = 16.5 % (10.9%)
- 205 were in Professional Occupations = 20.5% (17.5%)
- 135 were Associate Professional and Technical Occupations = 13.5% (12.8%)
- 110 were Administrative and Secretarial Occupations = 11.1% (11.5%)
- 135 were Skilled Trades Occupations = 13.2% (11.4%)
- 100 were Caring, Leisure and Other Service Occupations = 9.7% (9.3%)
- 55 were Sales and Customer Service Occupations = 5.4% (8.4%)
- 30 were Process, Plant and Machine Operatives = 2.9% (7.2%)
- 75 were in Elementary Occupations = 7.2% (11.1%)

Qualifications & Skills

Of the 1,890 usual residents in the parish aged 16 and over:

- 300 possessed no qualifications = 16.8% (22.5%)
- 610 possessed Level 4 and above qualifications = 34.1% (27.4%)

Housing

There are 875 households located within the Parish (a household means one person living alone, or a group of people living at the same address):

- 420 were Owner-occupied households, owned outright = 48% (30.6%)
- 315 were owned with a mortgage or loan = 36% (32.8%)
- 5 were Shared Ownership = 0.7% (0.8%)
- 40 were Social Rented from Council = 4.7% (9.4%)
- 5 were Social Rented Other = 0.6% (8.3%)
- 65 were privately rented – by landlord or letting agency = 7.4% (15.4%)
- 10 were privately rented other = 1.0% (1.5%)

15 are living rent free = 1.6% (1.3%)
50 vacant household spaces = 5.2% (4.3%)
270 are pensioner households = 30.9% (20.7%)

Dwellings

There are 875 dwellings located within the Parish (a dwelling means a self-contained household space):

The figures show there is a significantly higher percentage of detached dwellings compared to the overall percentage with caravans/mobile homes also being higher than average, offset by lower percentages of semi-detached and terraced properties and flats:

490 dwellings are Detached = 53% (22.3%)

245 dwellings are Semi-detached = 26.4% (30.7%)

90 dwellings are Terraced = 9.7% (24.5%)

20 dwellings are Flats/apartments – purpose built = 2.1% (16.7%)

15 dwellings are Flats in converted or shared houses = 1.8% (4.3%)

5 dwellings are in commercial buildings = 0.8% (1.1%)

60 dwellings are Caravans/other Mobile/Temporary Structures = 6.3% (.4%)

10 dwellings are second homes

Population density is 2.1 per hectare (4.1)

General Character

For England, the climate is mild. In particular, winter temperatures are moderated by the proximity to the sea (which retains summer heat for longer). The South Downs provide a degree of protection from northerly winds, which can be cold; and the presence of the Isle of Wight lessens the influence of winds from the south west. There is a noticeable clarity in the air. These factors are not only appreciated by residents, but also affect the nature of agricultural and horticultural practices.

The size and nature of other nearby settlements have had an effect on the need for services and facilities in the three villages. The City of Chichester has perhaps the greatest number of these on offer, but Bognor Regis, Littlehampton and Arundel can all claim a more extensive range of shops, services and cultural / recreational activities than the villages themselves. For some things, local residents are, of course, prepared to travel further afield: to Brighton, Guildford, Portsmouth or London and to many other places for specialised requirements. The relationship between settlements in terms of such provision is a function of size, distance, historic role and transport opportunities – the latter being particularly influential in more recent years as the use of private cars has become the norm. Even other villages in the immediate vicinity can fulfil some of our own residents' needs: for rail travel and fast food outlets (e.g. Barnham), for some health needs, and for a different choice of shops, clubs and social activities.

Environment and Heritage

Geology

The Parish is situated on the relatively flat coastal plain to the south of the South Downs. The Downs themselves run here in an east/west line, and begin to rise more steeply above the plain just to the north of the parish boundary. They therefore dominate the northern skyline, whilst in other directions the horizon is determined primarily by the nature of the tree cover. The coastline (the English Channel) lies about 4.5 km south of the parish boundary. The elevation above mean sea level is between about 9 and 51 metres.

The geology and soils of the area are determined by this location between sea and chalk hills. The Bracklesham Group, London Clay, and Reading Formation (each consisting of clay, silt, sand and gravel in varying proportions) in the form of 'head' and 'raised beaches' are the main elements from which the soil derives. Towards the very north of the parish, beyond the A27, chalk is nearer the surface. Fontwell sits on top of the Aldingbourne raised beach formed 400,000 years ago, BC.

Landscape

Walberton is located on the West Sussex Coastal Plain and the productive soils consist of brick earth over gravel; the land slopes gently south from the foot of the South Downs; Binsted is crossed by two streams which carry surface water from the Downs towards the sea via a tributary of the River Arun. It enjoys an equable climate with remarkably clean air and light intensity. The land has four main uses:

- **Woodland** – most of this is in the northern part of Binsted on both sides of the A27. Much is ancient semi natural woodland.
- **Pasture** - this supports dairy farming, sheep grazing and a number of small equestrian units.
- **Open arable land** – high quality land produces, cereals, oilseed rape, field peas, maize for silage, etc.
- **Horticulture** – a significant number of glass house holdings and more extensive enterprises produce flowers, hardy plants, and salad crops and provide much employment for locals and for immigrant labour.

Most of the landscape is quite open in aspect within a network of hedges and small copses and tree belts. In past years the former Walberton Action Group (WAG) surveyed the principal habitats of the parish and took part in the Sussex wide hedge survey. A survey was also conducted of Breeding Birds. Based on this information, WAG completed a landscape improvement scheme which resulted in considerable replanting of derelict or missing hedgerows, tree planting, pond conservation and new public paths.

As already mentioned, outside the villages there is much open farmland; but in addition there are hedges, coppices and spinneys; plus, woodland and some open water can be found. Binsted Wood provides an extensive area of land

which is generally accessible to all. Some other land can also be walked on by the public (by rights of way, by permissive paths, or through open access [?]), but all the countryside has environmental benefits for local residents through the views it enables and the wildlife it supports. Land in the north-west of the parish falls within the recently designated South Downs National Park, and, of course, the amenities of this Park are easily accessible to residents.

Biodiversity

The Parish of Walberton has a rich assemblage of wildlife habitats, geological sites and landscape features which have been documented by the Sussex Biodiversity Partnership (see Evidence Base). These vary from the large areas of woodland to the east, the farmland to the south and west and the wet meadows through which a series of streams take the water from the Downs towards the sea. The following are the principal habitats recorded:

Ancient trees

Ancient woodland

Chalk streams – Binsted Brook and the headwaters of Barnham Rife

Flood plain grazing marsh

Lowland fen

Lowland heathland

Traditional orchards

Woodpasture and parkland

The main statutory protection for these habitats is where they are within the boundaries of the South Downs National Park. While Natural England has not designated any SSSI, there are two Sites of Nature Conservation Interest – a designation to be respected in the planning system:

Binsted Woods (Ar 02)

Rewell Woods (Ar 07)

Binsted Wood is described as a mixture of ancient woodland, recent woodland, conifer plantation, species rich pasture and old tracks and shaws, giving rise to a very rich and diverse flora. The paths through the wood are especially rich, containing 11 species of sedge, including the Long Stalked Yellow Sedge – the only recorded location in Sussex. It is the largest block of ancient semi-natural woodland south of the South Downs in Sussex.

Rewell Wood is a large woodland complex north of the A27 Trunk Road. It has a diversity of woodland habitats including ancient semi natural woodlands as well

as commercial coniferous and sweet chestnut areas. Wide rides support a rich flora and butterfly populations.

The Slindon Common Gravel Pit has been worked out for some years and is used for occasional 4x4 sports and training. In the banks and pits can be studied the raised beach deposits of the Middle Pleistocene era. It is listed as a West Sussex Geological Site SU90/25 They are also of entomological importance for their insect population.

Fontwell's Meadows known as fontwell south, contain 15 types of grasses and 32 species of wild plants, which is classified as Lowland Meadows (Lowland Neutral grassland). Mainly due to the retained high water content of the Lowland Neutral Grassland, a rich variety of plants and grasses support hundreds of insect species, many declining varieties of butterflies, moths, bees and many other insects, vital resources for mammals, reptiles and many species of birds, that rely on these Ancient Grasslands for their very survival.

The hedgerows surrounding these Ancient Meadows are vital habitats and support scores of species of birds ranging from jenny wrens to firecrest's , doves to jackdaws, and owls to buzzards, and many, many more.

Species of Interest

Bats – of the 18 species to be found in the UK, 9 have been recorded in Walberton Parish. The most numerous are the two Pipistrelle species including a large maternity roost in St Mary's church in Walberton. Roosting sites and feeding areas need to be conserved. Two colonies of Barabstell Bats have been discovered half a mile from Fontwell Village, they are a Global Protected Mammal under IUCN Red List endangered mammals, and also protected under Annex 1V European Habitats Directive, UK Annex II of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Also under the protection of the Rio Protocols, which the UK signed up to in 2002.

One of the projects that is in progress on the Slindon Estate has led to another colony of Barbastell Bats in West Sussex, the Walberton , Binsted and Fontwell Areas are well populated with ancient trees forming ideal corridors connecting habitats together. These areas coupled with pastoral wet habitats and the presence of lakes and ponds in Wandleys Lane are ideal landscapes and feeding territories for all bats.

It is important to maintain potentially rich habitats such as the Ancient Meadows at Fontwell, that should now be thought of as a vital rich bio-diverse habitat and feeding territory for the future survival of these Endangered Mammals.

Protected species – the following have been recorded: Great Crested Newt, Water Vole, Hazel Dormouse, Slow Worm, Grass Snake, Common Lizzard and Adder. For security reasons, badgers are not listed in the Biodiversity report, but they have certainly been present in the Rewell Wood in recent years.

Birds – the Biodiversity Report contains a very long list of birds recorded and this is supplemented by a survey of breeding birds carried out by the former Walberton Action Group in 2008. The survey was carried out by some 40 volunteers all drawn from the village communities. A total of 86 species were recorded including some passage migrants such as fieldfare, redwing, pied flycatcher, osprey and siskin. No less than 17 red listed birds and 18 amber listed were recorded. Species of particular interest were: lapwings, snipe, tree sparrows, barn owls, and wryneck.

Other surveys – Walberton Action Group also carried out detailed surveys of the flora in the churchyard and a survey of every hedgerow in the farmland, making a particular note of the more diverse hedges, which would normally be the most ancient landscape features.

Drainage and Flooding

Walberton has a history of flooding and, at the request of the Environment Agency and Arun District Council, a Flood Management Plan was produced by Walberton Parish Council in August 2011. A Flood Management Task Force has been set up to monitor and deal with flooding issues. Surface water flooding occurs after prolonged and exceptionally heavy rainfall. Copse Lane, Mill Lane, Field Close, North Pound and Tye Lane carry surface water into The Street which floods. 60 properties in the area of Walberton Green and the pond have been identified as at risk of flooding. Recent flooding incidents were in November 2010 and June and July 2012. All the properties at risk of flooding are privately owned homes.

Walberton Parish Council has produced and maintains a Flood Management Plan to enable the parish effectively to prepare and respond to the risk of flooding in the area. Its aim is to inform the community, liaise with the emergency services and assist before and after any flooding incidents.

There are six Walberton Flood Wardens who are registered with the Environment Agency Floodline to receive warnings for the parish and who are aware of the plan. The Wardens keep in touch with residents and monitor the state of relevant gullies, ditches and outflows. There is a ditch running down Mill Lane which overflows when culverts under the highway cannot take large volumes of water. There is a ditch behind Oaktree Cottages which leads into the Barnham Rife. This rife flows underneath Barnham Lane from the pond. There are gullies at the eastern end of Barnham Lane.

There are springs which flow continually down West Walberton Lane.

In very wet weather there is risk of mild flooding from drains bubbling up in The Street and raw sewage is discharged into Barnham Lane, south of Choller Farm and in Eastergate Lane between Fairfield and Winter Egg Farm.

The geology of the area creates a high water table. The landscape of the fields to the south of the village is low lying and takes water to Barnham and Yapton via Barnham Rife out to the flood plain. It is one of several main routes taking water from the Downs to the sea after heavy rainfall, allowing flood water from the rifes and rainwater to be contained in the flood plain.

Some villagers in Binsted are affected by flooding. After heavy rainfall water runs off the fields between Flint Barn and Oakley Cottages. It enters the ditches, which at times are blocked, causing surface floods along the road. In 2014 Binsted Lane was completely flooded by rainwater which had over-filled the culvert near the area where the road becomes undeveloped and proceeds to Binsted Park and Tortington woods.

The hillside below the Black Horse Pub is full of springs which overflow into Binsted Rife. This also takes water out onto the flood plain providing a natural and essential means of absorbing excessive water. Hedgers Hill floods at its lowest point between Yapton Lane and Binsted Lane.

Villagers in Fontwell are affected by flooding from heavy rainfall when some of the gardens in Hunters Mews flood. This leads to standing water accumulating at the junction with Arundel Rd. Fontwell has underground springs and a river which runs underneath Arundel Rd. and across to Wandleys Lane and West Walberton Lane.

Houses on the west side of West Walberton Lane, about halfway down, experience sewage emerging into their gardens after rain. This has been occurring intermittently since 2004.

The underpass in old London Road which links Fontwell with Slindon Dukes Road, has a pump running 24 hours a day 365 days a year, because if this fails, which it has from time to time, the underpass floods, which cuts off horse, cyclists and pedestrian access from Slindon, and forces residents to try and cross the A27.

In the winter floods of 2014 the junction of Fontwell Avenue and Wandleys lane was closed for 2 months because of flooding. In January 2015 raw sewage flowed from Hunters Mews into the drive of Goodacres Cottage in Arundel Rd.

The residents of Havenwood Park are not thought to be inconvenienced by flooding after rain.

Garden wells in the village of Walberton do not seem to be affected by heavy rainfall. There are several in The Street.

High tides along the coast can cause ground water levels to rise in gardens at Barrack Row.

The Lidsey Surface Water Management Plan published in October 2014 outlines proposals by Arun District Council, Southern Water and The Environment Agency

or dealing with ditches and culverts at the east end of Eastergate Lane, Walberton. It will address ditch clearance in West Walberton Lane.

The Lidsey plan also proposes to investigate and prioritise interventions to reduce clear water inflow and infiltration of public foul sewers along Eastergate Lane and Barnham Lane. Southern Water also proposes this action, through detailed investigation, for Maple Rd, Walberton.

Listed Buildings

The Parish has 39 Listed Buildings of which one, St Mary's Church is Grade I (see Evidence Base for listings).

Ancient Monuments

The Parish has two Scheduled Ancient Monuments both of which are earthworks (see Evidence Base for listings).

Conservation Areas

The Parish has two Conservation Areas (see Evidence Base). Described in the SPG for the area as:

Walberton is situated approximately half a mile south of the A27 and 2 miles west of Arundel. The Conservation Areas were designated in November 1990. It is an attractive village with no distinct centre, although the Conservation Areas are based on two areas with distinct identities, one around the pond and Village Green at the west end and the other at the eastern end based around The Street, Church and Walberton house. There are impressive individual buildings and groups, of a mixture of age and type, and the two areas are further enhanced by attractive boundary walling (including long sections in flint) and hedges.

Buildings or Structures of Character

The Parish contains 30 buildings listed within Arun District Council's Supplementary Planning Document – Buildings or Structures of Character (September 2005). These buildings, whilst not listed, are recognised as important contributors to the local distinctiveness and sense of place and form part of the areas rich heritage.

National Park

A part of the Parish to the north of the A27 now lies within the South Downs National Park.

Getting Around

Road and Footpaths

Roads

The A27, known as the Folkestone to Honiton Trunk Road, passes through the Parish close to the northern boundary. However, it is in need of much improvement elsewhere if it is to fulfil its national role at all satisfactorily. Locally, a proper Arundel by-pass, a by-pass for Worthing (in the past, often 'planned and then abandoned'), and major improvements to the Chichester by-pass should all be priorities in the national road programme, although there are some environmental constraints to overcome. The A29 study commissioned by WSCC in 2012 from Parsons Brinkerhoff recommends Option A which is entirely outside the area of the Neighbourhood Plan but will affect the residents. Fontwell residents, and indeed others in the area, will therefore be concerned.

Public Rights of Way (PROW)

About ten years ago Walberton Action Group (WAG) surveyed the public rights of way (public footpaths and bridleways) in the Parish as to their condition and capacity. The idea was to suggest to the Parish Council a Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) which at the time was recommended by the County Council; it could enable the Parish to apply when funding was available.

Overall the Parish is well served with PROW, with a network that gives access to most parts of the Parish and provides links between the Villages and to the wider countryside. The paths are clearly signposted and not obstructed. The Highway Authority (WSCC) inspects every path about every 9 months and contractors then deal with any problems of maintenance.

The Parish Council also has powers to maintain prows, which it does sparingly through volunteer members of Walberton Task Force. They generally deal with short term problems and drainage issues.

The network was established over many years and does not necessarily reflect the needs of the 21st century. WAG concluded that today the population need three things:

- a. Safe access for walkers and cyclists to and between shops and schools
- b. Longer distance connections with, e.g., Barnham, Arundel and the Downs
- c. Circular recreational walks – especially for dog walkers.

In part to meet these needs, the network has in recent years been supplemented by permissive routes dedicated by local landowners. Examples are the path alongside Yapton Lane which connects the village with the allotments and the series of paths around the edges of paths south of Walberton village on Pigeon House Farm, which are well used by dog walkers.

Looking forward, WAG suggested the following requiring action:

1. Barnham Lane is still a country lane and yet takes heavy concentrates of traffic rendering it dangerous to use by cyclists and walkers and so a priority is the provision of a safe off road route to connect Walberton to the schools and railway station at Barnham. This proposal was strongly supported in the Parish Questionnaire.
2. Similarly, West Walberton Lane is not user friendly and a safe link between Walberton and Fontwell is needed. As more housing takes place, the greater the need. WSCC sees this as a long-term project to connect the coastal communities with the South Downs National Park.
3. Havenwood Caravan Park is very isolated and a link for cyclists and walkers alongside the A27 as far as Binsted Lane is desirable.
4. Scotland Lane was possibly the original Roman Road and provides an excellent and direct link to Arundel for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. It has been much improved in recent years by the County Council, but some of the surfacing is starting to break down. Resurfacing of the eastern end is particularly needed together with urgent drainage works. (The task force work on the drainage each winter)
5. Cope Lane provides an important link across the A27, but for most winters it is all but unusable due to lack of drainage.
6. WAG believed that more residents could enjoy the network of paths around the parish and to that end organised a series of guided walks and published a booklet of Six Walks Around Walberton.

Cycle Routes

A cycle route has been established from Barnham to Walberton and an extension to Fontwell and Slindon and a new route to Arundel and Havenwood have been approved and work should commence in the the Summer of 2015.

Bus

There is an infrequent bus service to Fontwell and Walberton, and to Havenwood in Binsted but from the A27. There are no buses that serve the hamlet of Binsted itself. The 85 (but not the 85A nor the 66) stops in Fontwell. The 66 service, operated under contract to West Sussex County Council, travels between

Walberton and Bognor Regis on weekdays and makes eight journeys each day. The timetable varies slightly between schooldays and non schooldays.

The 85/85A service, operated by Compass, runs a different time table during school term time and school holidays and on Saturdays. There are four buses in each direction between Chichester and Worthing on weekdays and none on Sundays.

Minibus

The Five Villages operate a minibus which runs one day each week (on Mondays, Thursdays or Fridays) to a number of local destinations including Chichester, Worthing, Rustington, Bognor Regis, Shoreham and Ferring, sometimes to the town centres and sometimes to a local supermarket. The service operates a door-to-door pick up and drop off service from any of the three Villages. It is operated by local volunteer drivers and escorts. It is open to everyone, there is no age limit nor means test. The fares vary between £2.50 and £4.00 according to the destination. In recent months it has been used less than at previous times; it provides a useful and friendly service of which some residents may not be aware.

Cars

The latest information available comes from the 2011 Census.

A smaller number of households in the Villages than in either West Sussex as a whole or in England have no car; the number with one car is about the same as for the county or the country but the number of households in the Villages with more than two cars is higher than in either. The figures are:-

% of households with	the Villages	West Sussex	England
no car	7.3%	17.8%	25.8%
1 car	40%	43.4%	42.2%
2 cars	36.8%	29.2%	24.7
3 cars	11.6%	6.9%	5.5%
4+ cars	4.2%	2.7%	1.9%

The available traffic statistics show that the highest density of traffic in The Street in Walberton is at school times. There is at least anecdotal evidence of HGV vehicles in excess of the permitted weight limit using the route through Walberton.

Rail

The nearest railway station to Binsted, Fontwell and Walberton (the Villages) is at Barnham. There are frequent trains, seven days a week, to London and to the main local towns and cities of Bognor Regis, Brighton, Chichester, Littlehampton, Portsmouth and Southampton. These all stop at many smaller places en-route. There are also daily direct services to the west and north west (principally to Bristol, Cardiff, and Great Malvern). The parking facilities at the station are limited and tend to be filled by those commuting early in the day. There is a good taxi service based at the station and some buses from Barnham to the surrounding areas.

Enterprise and Employment

Retail and Entertainment

The parish centre now has a pub/restaurant, is lucky to have parade of shops (News agent & Grocer, Laundrette, Dentist, hairdresser, estate agent & Post Office) a primary school, Preschool child care, a small number of business parks for artisans etc (William Booker Yard, Hooe Farm, DM Chainsaws et al at Walberton Place, Walberton Farm furniture restoring etc), a gallery, a second hand motor dealership and a motor garage.

Employment

Many of the village's older properties and buildings tell the story of Industries and Employers of the past.

E.g. Shops, A Brewery, A Blacksmith, Farmers, Fruit growing and horticulture, Schools, Transport companies, Building Companies, a number of pubs and large landed estates.

However around the 'rim' of the Parish the Employment, Commerce and Enterprise prospects are high.

If one was to walk the boundary of the Parish from the North West Corner along our Northern Boundary you would pass:

A Restaurant that is part of the national Little Chef chain.

A takeaway restaurant that is part of the International Burger King chain.

A Motel that is part of the national Travel lodge chain.

A Petrol Station and Convenience Store operated by Shell, an international giant.

A parade of shops now catering for highly specialised interests.

A Breakdown, emergency and recovery centre at Westbourne Motors being part of a group that 'boasts' the largest recovery fleet in the South of England.

A bespoke and highly specialised Engineering company.

A large luxury hotel, conference centre, Leisure park (golf) belonging to the huge International Hilton Hotel chain.

Many of their customers and employees will be only just entering the Parish for their visit and most of the businesses are located almost certainly because of the major arterial route boundary that we have – The A27. More businesses are likely to follow as the road gets busier and gets improved – e.g. the Oaks.

To the East the employment is mainly in Farming however farm buildings are used for other smaller enterprise and the Black Horse Pub/Restaurant.

Our Southern, South East and South West boundaries have a considerable number of Horticulture centres – Binsted Herbs, Far plants, Crosslands Nurseries and many more as well as another small business park.

The location and expansion of this industry was largely as a result of post war planning and food production needs and the 'most sunshine hours' statistic that

can be found. This is far for unique in our Parish and we form part of a large and expanding Horticultural Industry.

In the Parish there are approximately 200 hundred equines stabled, this is due to the access they have to The National Park which is accessed from Old London Road underpass, there are two bridleways but you have to cross the A27 to gain access to The National Park, which cannot be done, unless you take your life in your hands and that of your horse.

Wandleys Lane is used by equines as it is too dangerous to ride up Fontwell Avenue, West Walberton Lane is used by the equines that are stabled in Eastergate Lane. Walberton Village is used by them to access Binsted Woods, however they have to ride up Avisford Park Road, which is a very busy road used by lorries, then they have to cross over on a blind bend to access the quiet lanes of Binsted.

The Equestrian sector brings in £750.000 per year to the Local Economy.

Community, Leisure and Wellbeing

Services

For electricity, gas and telephones, customers are able to choose their service provider, but the distribution networks are maintained by Scottish and Southern Electricity (SSE), British Gas (Centrica), and BT. Waste water is handled by Southern Water.

Water is supplied by Portsmouth Water: Its sources are wells/aquifers in the downs to the north and north-west, which are very reliable (there have been no recent water supply problems), although, deriving from the chalk, the water is consistently 'hard'. Waste water is handled by Southern Water.

Both Yapton and Eastergate exchanges are enabled for super-fast fibre broadband to serve the fibre enabled (green) street cabinets. However, the higher Broadband communication speed cannot be maintained using the present Asymmetrical Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) copper wire to house connection. To replace the ADSL network BT uses fibre to the cabinets and the much faster Very-high-bit-rate Digital Subscriber Line (VDSL) from the cabinet to the home. This new BT network is known as Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC) network. In essence a new VDSL fibre connection to each home or business is required to to replace the ADSL network and give the customer the maximum super-fast speed. This is a major undertaking for BT to update the existing copper wire system and probably means a part copper, part fibre network for some time to come.

For rural broadband users, such as those in Binsted, the likelihood of a super-fast fibre speed service is remote. The alternatives are: satellite broadband (slow and costly) and the later 3G and the new 4G phone technology (patchy signals). Both these technologies have been partially successful in other parts of the country and in Wales.

Electricity and telephone services throughout Binsted and parts of Walberton & Fontwell are via overhead cables; both are vulnerable to storm and, in the case of the National Grid cables, bird strike (Swans) damage to cables. There were three such strikes in 2014/15, some of which required a portable generator from SSE for one vulnerable resident.

Binsted has no gas supply or main drainage. Many of the older properties lack central heating and rely on solid fuel or oil burning stoves. Electricity or bottled propane gas is used for cooking.

The Havenwood Park site has mains electricity and telephone. Water is supplied from an artesian well, and for drainage there is single septic tank small-scale sewage treatment system.

Medical

The surgeries that serve Walberton, Binsted and Fontwell are as follows:-

The Arundel Surgery

The Arundel Surgery currently have 6,418 patients of those 292 are from Walberton, 53 from Binsted and 57 from Fontwell. The practice has five doctors, three nurses, a phlebotomist/ healthcare assistant and a chiropodist that visits once a week. There is also a system for telephone consultations with the doctors. The nurse run clinic is available for a number of conditions, including 24hour blood pressure monitoring and immunisation. There are numerous clinics including:- family planning, teenage health screening, asthma, diabetes and other chronic diseases. The midwife holds weekly clinics, and a health visitor offers a screening programme for children under five years of age. The Surgery has a large car park and a dispensing pharmacy within the grounds.

Avisford Medical Group – Yew Tree Surgery, Yapton

Binsted, Fontwell and Walberton patients account for just under 5% of the Yew Tree Surgery, Yapton. This practice is part of the group, who also have a surgery in Middleton-on-Sea. This practice is accredited for GP training and trains young doctors embarking on a career in general practice. Yapton Pharmacy was established at the Yew Tree Surgery site in April 2013. The practice offers a full range of medical services including family planning, minor surgery and a “stop smoking” clinic. The surgery has practice based counsellors and a chiropodist and physiotherapist visit the Yapton Surgery on a weekly basis. Parking space is limited.

The Croft Surgery, Barnham, Eastergate

The Croft has more patients from the three villages than all the other surgeries in the area. There are 927 patients from Walberton, 31 from Binsted and 532 from Fontwell. The practice has six doctors, three nurses, two phlebotomists/healthcare assistants. Health visitors are involved primarily with children from 0 – 5 years. This surgery has numerous clinics, some of which include – Cervical Screening and Women’s Health, Minor Surgery and Cryotherapy, Child Health Surveillance. Parking is limited and can be a problem for patients.

Hospital referrals

Patients requiring hospital referrals are directed to St. Richards Hospital in Chichester, (8 miles), or to Worthing Hospital (10 miles). Both hospitals are under the same Trust and patients can choose their preferred area. Some patients are sent to Bognor Hospital (7 miles) for specialised treatments. Homebound patients are visited by the district nurses, based at Arundel Hospital.

Dispensing Pharmacies

Most of the surgeries have either a pharmacy in close proximity to them or provide a convenient pick up point, such as the Flintcroft Surgery at Walberton. For housebound patients the Five Villages pharmacy at Barnham provides a free prescription delivery service in association with the local surgeries. Repeat prescriptions orders can be made on-line (but not by phone), using the MyRepeats service.

The Flintcroft Surgery, The Street, Walberton

The Flintcroft Surgery is part of the Croft group of surgeries and can be visited by making early (before 8.45 am) appointment. It shares a building with the privately run Simpson Physiotherapist practice. This surgery also provides a useful pick-up point for repeat prescriptions. Parking on the site is limited.

Surgery Appointments

All the local surgeries are busy practices, with both the Croft and Arundel surgeries having long waiting lists for appointments. Both surgeries would be hard pressed to accommodate any new influx of patients from a large housing development in the area. There is a severe shortage of GP's in the NHS and a crisis in recruitment. In the case of the Arundel surgery, such a new development could easily provide work for another full time equivalent GP.

Medical Emergencies

Normally, in a medical emergency situation residents are taken to St. Richard's Hospital, Chichester (8.3 miles), where there is an active Accident and Emergency department. Journeys to this hospital are difficult by public transport at peak times because of traffic congestion.

Bognor Regis War Memorial Hospital provides services for physiotherapy, hydrotherapy, rheumatology, dialysis, dermatology, eye testing, blood testing, and out of hours GP service. It also provides a Wheelchair Service Department. It has a weekday, daytime Emergency Department for minor injuries.

Dentist

The nearest dental surgeries to Binsted, Fontwell and Walberton are to be found at Maple Parade, Walberton – this surgery caters for NHS and private patients. Parking is very limited. The Chantry, Downview Road, Barnham is two miles from Walberton, and again takes NHS and private patients.

In an emergency situation St. Richards Hospital has a dental department which opens from 6.30 p.m – 9.00 p.m. weekdays and 9.30 a.m. – 12.00 noon at weekends. Appointments have to be made by telephone – they have one dentist on duty.

Education

Walberton Pre – School

The nearest pre-school is based in Walberton village and is run from the village hall. This school has provided 10 years of fun, friendship and learning for all children aged 2-5 years. Their small cosy 'Robins' class for 2 and 3 year old children

provides children with security and confidence. Their bigger 'Owls' class for 3 and 4 year old, allows the children to reach their potential and is a stepping stone towards moving on to primary school. The village hall has its own car park. Government funding is available for 3 year old and eligible 2 year old children. Childcare vouchers are accepted.

Percentage attendances from the three villages are:- Walberton 32%, Binsted 2% and Fontwell 11%. Attendees come from as far as Bognor and Chichester.

Community Play Centre at Walberton

A new Community Playcentre is under construction in Walberton village and will provide a full range of childcare for babies through to primary age children by mid-summer 2015. It is being built between the Village Hall and primary school.

The new building will serve local children of all ages and the location and design will make it ideal for pre school and primary school age children in particular. It will offer a more appropriate venue for existing activities e.g. holiday clubs, hobby activities, after school care, breakfast clubs and more). Services which local families need but are not currently available.

The Village Hall car park already becomes congested on school days. This can only become more so when all the new facilities are in place.

Primary Education

The Parish has only one primary education establishment Walberton and Binsted C of E Primary School, The Steet, Walberton. Pupils range from 4 to 11 years of mixed gender in six classes. Years 1 and 2 are reserved for 'starters' and years 3 to 6 for those aged up to 11, after which they go on to their secondary education. For a school which is relatively small it performs well in West Sussex and also nationally, with an Ofsted grade of *Outstanding*. The school, located in large grounds, provides a secure recreational area and green field site for football and other activities. The school building is modern and has good facilities for its 207 young pupils. This includes a Practical Room for such activities as instrumental lessons and other school club activities. The school also sports a strong football team which does well in the local schools tournaments. After school clubs and activities are encouraged by the staff and parents.

Access to the school is relatively safe, although some of the pavements in Walberton are in a poor state of repair and very narrow. For parents bringing younger children in pushchairs to accompany their siblings it can be difficult. For those coming to the school by car, parking can be frustrating, and requires parents to park wherever possible and negotiate their way to the school entrance without benefit of a pedestrian crossing point.

Attendance from each of the three villages is as follows:-

There are 70 children from Walberton, 30 children from Fontwell and none from Binsted.

For primary schools outside the parish there are schools at Slindon, Arundel, Barnham, Eastergate and the Free School at Chichester which has both a primary and secondary capacity.

Secondary Education

The parish has no secondary schools. Of the schools available outside the parish, none are within reasonable walking distance and all require some means of transport to reach them.

The closest secondary schools to Walberton are the St Philip Howard Catholic High School at Barnham (2.5 miles) and at Westergate, the Orminston Six Villages Academy (3 miles). Both the Chichester High Schools for Boys and Girls, and the Bishops Luffa Church of England Teaching School are over 8 miles from Walberton and require a daily train journey to Chichester from Barnham Station.

Cycling to Barnham station and to the Barnham and Westergate schools is possible, however the roads are narrow and in a poor state of repair. Some of the most difficult parts of the road between Walberton and Barnham have no pavement or cycle lane. A new cycle pathway from Walberton to Barnham has been established and is under construction. There are buses though Walberton to Barnham and Westergate but these are infrequent.

The numbers of children attending each secondary school from each of the three villages comprise the following:-

Orminston Six Villages Academy

Walberton 35, Binsted 1 and Fontwell 29

Bishop Luffa Church of England Teaching School

Walberton 13 children, Binsted 0 children and Fontwell 3 children.

Chichester High School for Girls (The 6th form is co-educational)

Walberton 9 children, Binsted 1 child and Fontwell 3 children.

Chichester High School for Boys

Only 3 boys attend from the parish.

St Philip Howard Catholic High School

In September 2014 there were 154 students admitted to year 7.

Walberton 5 students, Binsted 0 students and Fontwell 1 student.

Great Ballards School

A co-educational school which caters for children aged one (Nursery) to age sixteen (GCSE level). The school at four levels (Pre-Prep, Lower Prep, Upper Prep and Senior School). There is day-school and also takes boarders.

The Regis School, Bognor Regis

With 1400 students age 11-18 years the school has 8 students from this parish.

Felpham Community College

In February 2015 there were 2 students attending from this parish.

Lancing College (Private Establishment)

In February 2015 there were 2 pupils attending from this parish.

Seaford College

Seaford College, Petworth (10 miles) is a co-educational school of 620 pupils. 170 are in the Prep School aged between 7 and 13 and the sixth form numbers 150. The college takes a mixture of Day/full boarding and weekly boarding pupils, both boys and girls. Approximately one third of the pupils are girls. The school has a specialist dyslexia unit. In February 2015 there were 35 pupils attending from this parish.

Christ Hospital School

In February 2015 there were 870 students, with 2 pupils attending from Fontwell and 1 pupil from Walberton.

Chichester Free School

This school takes all children aged 4-19, from Chichester and the surrounding areas. In March 2015 there were 26 pupils attending the Free School from this Parish.

Westbourne House School

Independent preparatory School 1.5 miles east of Chichester. This is a co-educational school with 450 boarding and day-school pupils aged 3 to 13 years.

Littlehampton Community School

Comprehensive school 1834 students. No attendees from this parish.

Adult Education

As well as several privately run courses for adults within the parish and in the surrounding area, adult education courses are delivered through Aspire, a charitable staff-run social enterprise for persons aged between 16+ and adults. This charity have taken over adult education from West Sussex County Council.

Aspire provide a wide range of courses. Adult education is available at The Regis School, Arena Skills Centre, Westmead Hall, Bognor Regis Library, Willowhale Library - all located in Bognor. Jubilee Hall, Middleton, Ormiston Six Villages Academy, Westergate, Eastergate Primary School, Pagham Village Hall, Arun Leisure Centre, Community for ALDO - Walberton Village Hall, Southwick Community Centre, St. Matthews Church – Worthing, Goodwood Motor Circuit, The Littlehampton Academy, Worthing High School, Shoreham Academy. Woodland Centre - Rustington, The New Learning Shop, Littlehampton Guide Hall, Fishbourne Roman Palace, Northbrook Collage who have 8 students from BN18. Weekend Workshops are available at most of the above establishments.

A full programme of qualification courses across West Sussex can be found by e-mailing www.aspire.org.uk. Free high-quality qualification courses in English and maths, up to Level 2 are available.

One day courses are offered by Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance in Health and Safety in the Workplace, Risk Assessment and Customer Service at Levels 2 and Customer Service at Level.

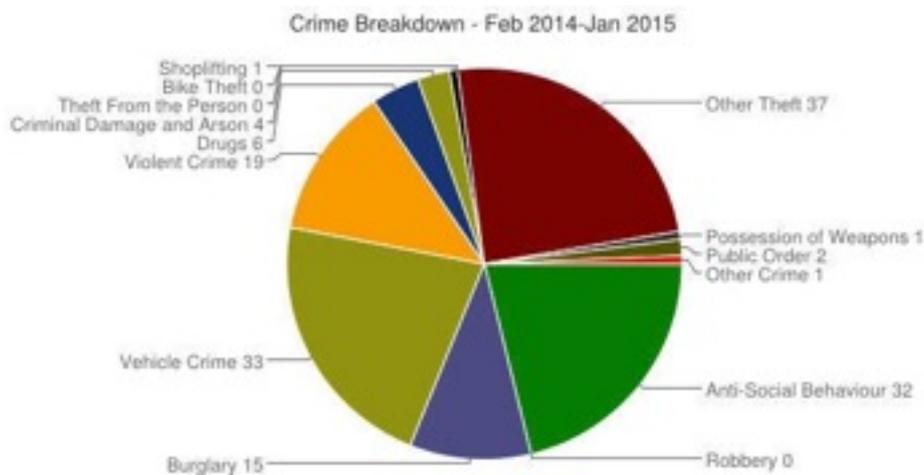
West Dean College is 6 miles from Chichester and 13 minutes from the heart of the South Downs National Park. It is an internationality-renowned centre for study and provides MA degrees, diplomas and short courses for students of all abilities from the beginner to the advanced professional practitioner.

Emergency Services

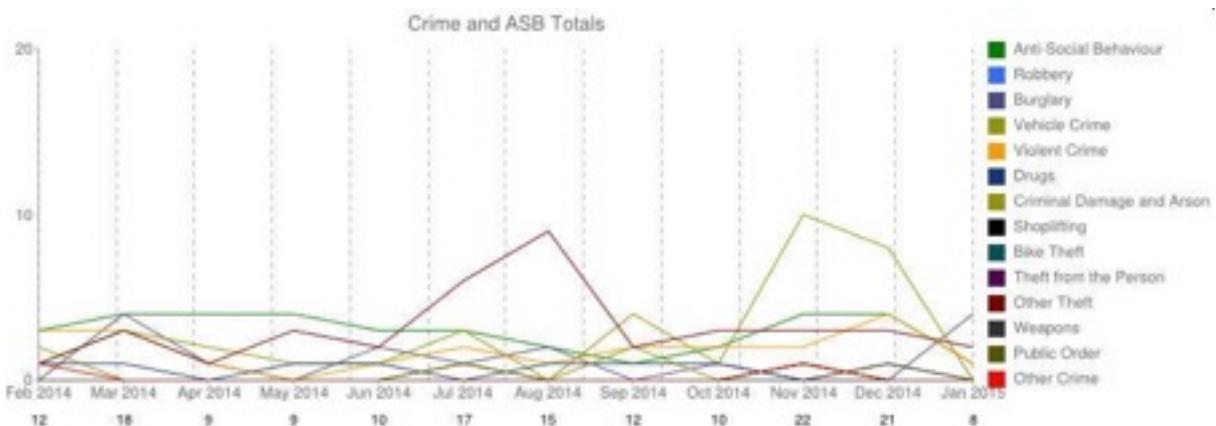
Police

Policing of the three villages is covered by a Local Policing Team based at the Littlehampton East Street Police Station. The team comprise a Police Sergeant and a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO). The team's area of responsibility covers the three villages and extends from north of the A27 through Slindon, Earham and North Munden to further south to the railway line at Yapton. This is a very large area under the control just two Police Officers.

For the Walberton area 8 crimes were reported, including one ASB, in the month of January 2015 as supplied by UKCrimeStats.com and for the year February 2014 to January 2015 the Crime Breakdown and Crime and ASB Totals statistics were shown as follows:-



Note:



From May 2013, the following changes were made to the crime categories:-

I) The violent crime category was renamed "violence and sexual offences"

- 2) A new category for "bicycle theft" was created which previously fell within "other theft"
- 3) A new category for "theft from the person" was created which previously fell within "other theft"
- 4) Public disorder and weapons were then split into two new categories; "public order" and "possession of weapons"
- 5) Both "other firearms offences" and "other knives offences" which were in "other crime" were moved into "possession of weapons".

Fire Service

The three villages are covered by Fire Stations at Chichester, Littlehampton and Arundel. Both Chichester and Littlehampton are rated as Immediate response and On-call fire fighters providing 24 hour cover. Arundel is rated as On-call fire fighters providing 24 hour cover.

Ambulance Service

The three villages are covered by the Chichester dispatch desk in the Emergency Operations Centre and that the vehicles which serve this area are based at Chichester and Bognor Regis with a response post at Fontwell. Vehicles may also be deployed from St Richards Hospital in Chichester.

The table below shows the number of emergency responses, the number of Red 1 responses, the number of Red 2 responses, the performance for these categories and the average response time for these categories.

Report options Date : Between 01 Apr 2013 and 31 Mar 2014

Parliamentary Wards : 45UCHE Walberton.

Grouping	Emr.	R1	R2	R1	R2	Avg. Resp.	Avg Resp.
	Resp. (i)	Resp. (i)	Resp. (i)	8min	8min		
				Perf. (i)	Perf. (i)	R1 (i)	R2 (i)
West Sussex	315	5	108	60.00%	32.41%	00:07:08	00:10:08
Totals	315	5	108	60.00%	32.41%	00:07:08	00:10:08

Note:

Red 1 Response - life-threatening conditions where speed of response may be critical in saving life or improving the outcome for the patient, eg. Heart attack, trauma or serious bleeding. 75 percent of all Red 1 patients must be reached in 8 minutes. 95 percent of all Red 1 patients must be reached within 19 minutes.

Red 2 Response - serious but not the most life-threatening. 75 percent of all Red 2 patients must be reached in 8 minutes. 95 percent of all Red 2 patients must be reached in 19 minutes.

Category C - conditions where the patient has been assessed as not have immediately life threatening condition but does require an assessment by an ambulance clinician or transport to a hospital. Agreed locally - the patient should receive an a emergency response in 30 or 60 minutes depending on the clinical need.

Libraries

There are no lending libraries in the parish and the closest libraries are at Arundel (2 miles) or Bognor (5 miles). However, for the parish 'bookworms' there are regular visits by the Walberton Mobile Library. Visits are made twice monthly for an hours stop at Walberton Village Hall car park and shorter stops made at Havenwood Park and at Fontwell Shops on the same days. These mobile library visits are welcome by the residents and well supported.

Parish Churches

St. Mary's, Walberton lies on southern edge of the village near Walberton Park. Services are held each Sunday at 9.00 a.m. – 10.30 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. Rev.Tim Ward is the Vicar of Walberton and Rector of Binsted Church.

St. Mary's, Binsted lies in the middle of Binsted village. Holy communion is held at 9.00 a.m. once a month.

Walberton Baptist Church, The Street, Walberton , run by Pastor John Brinkley hold services at 10.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. each Sunday. The nearest Catholic church to the three villages is St. Richard's which stands at the top of Slindon village opposite Slindon College. Mass is celebrated every Sunday at 9.00 a.m. Father Anthony M. Churchill (Priest in Charge) and Father Terry Martin are the contacts.

Leisure Facilities and Activities

Being a relatively small village, Walberton, Binsted and Fontwell are not equipped with the full range of facilities that would be expected in the towns and residents often have to travel to chosen activities. Older residents are better served than the young people of the parish. The following gives a general description of what is available.

Formal Sports

Cricket – Walberton Cricket Club have played on the Walberton playing field for many years; matches are normally on a Sunday with practice mudweek using the recently built practice net.

Football – Walberton Football Club has ceased operation. However, the good pitch is regularly use by the thriving Barnham Trojans Juniors who train on a Saturday

and play matches on Sundays.

Stoolball – Aldingbourne Stoolball Club play on Monday and Wednesday evenings in the summer.

Short Mat Bowls – the Walberton team play on Monday afternoons and Wednesday evenings in the Village Hall

Golf – Avisford Park Golf Club is partly in the grounds of the Hilton Hotel and provides a challenge to all comers on a Play and Pay basis.

Informal Sport and exercise

Fishing – Petworth and Bognor Angling Club manage a number of waters in the area, including the secluded Stemps Wood ponds south of Walberton village.

Swimming, gym work and fitness classes – all available at the Hilton Hotel.

Children – there is a small well equipped children's play area next to the Village Hall.

Enjoyment of the Countryside

Walking – there is an excellent network of public footpaths giving access to the woods and farmland of our parish together with access to the South Downs National Park.

Horse riding – a good number of horses are kept in the parish and, again, there is a good local provision of bridleways but access to them is not always easy; safe access to the much larger network north of the A27 is only possible through the tunnel at Fontwell.

Cycling – there are no dedicated cycleways at present, although for leisure purposes, cyclists can use the variably surfaced bridleways. However, a new off road path for walkers and cyclists is due to be completed in 2015 which will be a much needed sustainable link to Barnham shops, station and schools. This will be part of a wider vision for a cycleway from the coastal communities to the Downs via Felpham, Barnham, Walberton and Slindon.

Old Scotland Lane – is a public bridleway running through Binsted woods towards Arundel and in dry weather can provide an excellent off road route for walkers, cyclists and equestrians. WSCC greatly improved much of it a few years ago: investment in more drainage work and surfacing would provide a valuable strategic east-west route.

Housing

The housing mix within Walberton Parish is varied but comprises predominately of detached and semi-detached dwellings typical of a semi-rural location with modern infilling. The majority of houses are concentrated within Walberton.

Housing Statistics (2011 census)

490 detached houses

244 semi detached houses

90 terraced houses

19 purpose built flats

24 other flats

58 Caravan or other temporary accommodation

84.7% of housing is owner occupied (England average = 64.1%)

5.2% housing is social rented

7.4% of housing is private rented

2.6% of housing is other rented accommodation

The 2015 parish survey identified 32 residents who were unable to obtain their own home in the villages. 59 stated that they would require their own home in the next 5 years and 80% of them would want a home to buy or own and 20% would want to rent. 42 residents indicated a need to move to more manageable accommodation citing bungalows, flats, assisted living and sheltered accommodation as requirements.

2. Community Views

Results of the 2015 Residents Survey

A survey of all households in the Parish was carried out in January 2015. Over 600 responses were received.

Full survey responses can be found in the Evidence Base.

3. Planning Framework

The parish is part of the Arun District and the West Sussex County. A small part of the north of the Parish lies with the South Downs National Park (SDNP). Each of these administrations has adopted and has emerging policies and proposals that have an influence over the strategy and detailed content of the WBFNDP.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published by the Government in 2012 is also an important guide in preparation of local plans and neighbourhood development plans. At examination, the submitted WBFNDP must demonstrate that is consistent with the policies and intent of the NPPF.

The development plan for Arun currently comprises the saved policies of the adopted 2003 Arun Local Plan and those of the Arun Local Plan 2011-2031 publication version which has been put out for consultation while this Plan has been being prepared. The WBFNDP must be deemed by ADC to be in general conformity with the development plan.

National Planning Policy Framework

The NPPF contains a number of key policy principles that will shape the WBFNDP. These are itemised below:

- The presumption in favour of sustainable development (para. 14)
- The role of NDPs (16)
- Helping achieve economic growth (18-20)
- Boosting the supply of housing (47)
- Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes (50)
- The quality of development (58)
- Promoting healthy communities (69)
- The use of community right to build orders (71)
- The designation of Local Green Spaces (76/77)
- Conserving and enhancing the natural environment (109-115)
- Neighbourhood plans (183-185)

The principles above are those of most relevance to the ALNDP but many other principles in the framework will have some bearing on the preparation of the document in due course.

Arun Local Plan 2003

There are a number of saved policies of the 2003 Local Plan that remain especially

relevant to the ALNDP, the majority of which have been updated in the emerging Local Plan:

Built Up Area Boundary (GEN2)
Provision of New Residential Development (GEN5)
The Form of New Development (GEN7)
Inland Flooding (GEN11) C:(watercourse in the north-western corner of the Parish)
Amount of New Commercial Development (GEN6)
Enhancement of Employment Premises and Sites (DM 1)
Development and the Production of New Infrastructure (GEN8)
Provision of Public Open Space within New Development (GEN20) Buildings or Structures of Character (GEN22)
Cycling and Walking (GEN15)
Listed Buildings (DM 29)
Areas of Special Character (AREA1)
Protection of Open Spaces (AREA5)
Affordable Housing (DEV17)
Local Village Centres (DEV30)

Arun Local Plan 2011-2031 publication version

The WBFNDP is being prepared in anticipation of the adoption of this Plan. In doing so, it is expected the WBFNDP will be submitted for examination – where its conformity to the development plan will be a key consideration – prior to the examination and adoption of the new Local Plan.

The Local Plan sets out a vision which includes the provision of over 2000 new homes on land to the east of the NP area. This proposal is hugely unpopular in the Parish. Justifying a Parish allocation of 30 homes against this backdrop has made the job of preparing the NP hard.

South Downs National Park Local Plan

A small area in the northern half of the parish area falls within the South Downs National Park. The South Downs National Park became the organisation with the statutory responsibility of writing planning policy for the National Park Area on the 1st of April 2011.

The National Park will create its own planning policy through the emerging National Park Local Plan. The Plan will replace the remaining saved policies of the 2003 Arun Local Plan once adopted, scheduled for 2017.

Other Strategies, Plans and Studies

There are a number of strategies, plans and policies that have been used in the preparation of the WBFNDP:

Arun District Local Plan 2003
Arun District Draft Local Plan (2011-2031)

Arun District Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment, SHLAA (2012)
ADC Play Strategy 2011-2016

ADC Leisure Strategy 2012
ADC landscape Study 2006
ADC SPG - Buildings or Structures of Character 2005
Arun District Council Energy Efficiency Strategy 2014-2017
West Sussex County Council Better Connected Broadband Delivery Plan
West Sussex Local Transport Plan 2011-26
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)
Flood and Water Management Act (2010)
Building for Life 12

Code for Sustainable Homes
WSCC Report on June 2012 Flood Event (November 2012)
Residents Survey 2015
Community Engagement Events
Housing Sites Appraisal 2015
Biodiversity Report for Walberton
Community Profile

4. Vision and Core Objectives

4.1 Vision

The vision for Walberton Parish in twenty years time has sought to capture the community's views and aspirations for the Parish. It therefore forms the basis on which the strategic objectives and proposed policies have been formulated.

"In 2023 Walberton Parish will continue to be an attractive place to live, maintaining its intrinsic semi-rural character whilst allowing for sustainable development and improving local services.

The distinctive rural character of Walberton, Fontwell and Binsted will have been preserved by maintaining the gap which separates the community from neighbouring areas of development.

Walberton will be connected with its neighbours through a network of safe off road links that integrate with the parishes of Aldingbourne, Eastergate and Barnham and make wider connections to the South Downs National Park to the north, the Southern coastline and historic towns of Arundel and Chichester to the east and west.

Local shops will continue to flourish within the parish providing an important part of daily community life. Local businesses and those working from home will benefit from an enhanced broadband and internet service. New work opportunities will be available within the parish for local people.

A good mix of housing will be available to meet the needs of local people."

4.2 Core Objectives

The vision is underpinned by a clear set of core objectives that seek to make a positive contribution to sustainable growth within Walberton Parish, both economically, environmentally and socially.

These core objectives should;

- o Provide new residential developments which complement the current character and cultural heritage of the village, but which are also sustainable in terms of infrastructure of the village in general;
- o Maintain an attractive mixture of green spaces and residential properties;
- o Contain appropriate infrastructure, including health, transport and community facilities, to meet the needs of all in the community;
- o Ensure new development does not increase flood risk to existing properties or land within the boundary of Walberton parish or within that of its immediate neighbours.
- o Have new housing which provides a variety of solutions to identified needs;
- o Provide for a range of living, working and leisure needs;
- o Ensure that the requirements of pedestrians, cyclists, private vehicles and public transport are properly met and accessible to all;
- o Maximise usage of the green spaces in the area, ensuring they are well maintained and provide net gains in wildlife habitats.

The WBFNDP will allocate sites for homes as specified in the ADC local plan 2011–2031 and will furthermore seek to allocate land as Local Green Space and biodiversity improvement areas. Further consultation with land owners and residents will be needed before these areas are finalised.

The Plan will also set out policies under the following headings:

- Getting Around** - dealing with transport and connectivity issues
- Employment and Tourism** - dealing with the protection, promotion and support for employment and tourism
- Housing and Design** - dealing with the strategic housing allocation, design and local housing issues

Community and Wellbeing - dealing with leisure, health and recreation

Environment and Sustainability - dealing with drainage, biodiversity, heritage and climate change

It is envisaged that the Plan will go forward for consultation under Regulation 14 in the summer of 2015.

The Evidence Base can be found at:

<http://walberton.arun.gov.uk/main.cfm?type=EVIDENCEBASE>