

STEYNING PARISH COUNCIL

STRATEGIC PLAN 2022



Steyning High Street

“Working for the benefit and well-being of the community”

INTRODUCTION

The Intent

The Steyning Parish Council Business Plan is a statement of the Council's vision for the parish, its purpose, values, objectives and key actions. It is a document that sets out what Steyning Parish Council can achieve either directly or by working with local groups and District Council (HDC) or County Council (WSCC).

The aim of the Business Plan is to give the residents of Steyning a clear understanding of what the Parish Council does and what it intends to focus on over the next two to five years. It will be reviewed annually and will be used to measure how well the council does in its budgeting processes, the planning of its activities and its progress against key actions.

We have based the Business Plan on our understanding of our community's needs, gathered from our day-to-day involvement with residents and other documents such as the emerging Neighbourhood Plan, Community Plan, Conservation Plan and the Steyning Business Plan developed by the Steyning and District Partnership. The SPC Business Plan will provide a framework for the Parish Council to work within, enabling it to operate in a more consistent and co-ordinated way, and to be proactive rather than reactive in its decision-making.

It is a statement of intent. However, the Council may have to make decisions contrary to our stated commitments if events such as budget constraints, new legislation or changes in our policies make that necessary. Any changes will be reflected in an updated Business Plan that will continue to be consistent with residents' wishes. We will consult on its contents with residents through our web site, the local media, 'Your Steyning' and key stakeholders. We shall also consult with HDC, WSCC and the Steyning Community Partnership to ensure that it is consistent with their goals. The final plan will be available on the website and any comments on the plan will be considered.

The Council's Mission Statement

To improve the sense of community wellbeing and the quality of life for the residents of Steyning by ensuring that it is a desirable, thriving, and sustainable place in which to live.

Local Government Hierarchy – A Guide to Responsibilities

There are three tiers of local government, each with different responsibilities. **Steyning Parish Council** is the first and local tier, with an important role to play in promoting the town, representing its interests, and supporting the work of different groups in the community. The Council sets the precept annually, manages the Steyning centre and staff and all the Council's assets. It manages the sweeping of the pavements and gutters, litter picking and bin emptying in part of the High Street and all the Memorial Playing Field, and it maintains the Memorial Playing Field, and all other open spaces it owns and its play areas. It is a statutory consultee on all planning applications lodged with Horsham District Council.

Horsham District Council (HDC) is the second tier and is responsible for housing and environmental services. HDC is also responsible for strategic planning policies for all development (domestic and commercial). Notably in Steyning it is responsible for the three Car Parks and Waste collections.

West Sussex County Council is the third tier and its responsibilities include highways, relating to both roads and footways (pavements), education, health and social services, public rights of way, fire service, re-cycling and the Steyning library.

STEYNING PARISH COUNCIL GOVERNANCE

The Council runs its business through committees and working groups or sub committees. Working groups comprising councillors and, if needed, members of the public, support the work of committees and any recommendations made by the working groups go forward to be debated at committee or, full Council. There are four committees: Finance & General Purposes, Community, Planning & Premises and Personnel.

The Council works in accordance with its Standing Orders and Finance Regulations. These lay down the rules by which we operate and conduct our business. We have based our Standing Orders on a model prepared by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC). We also expect Parish Councillors to adhere to the Council's Code of Conduct Policy. Committees work in accordance with the SPC Scheme of Delegation. We aim to promote operational transparency and in this instance these policies and many others can be found on our web site at www.steyningpc.gov.uk. We also aim to be a professional, competent and caring Parish Council, to be open and accountable and to ensure the sound financial management of Council resources.

The Council is represented on several external bodies including the Joint Parishes Cemetery Committee, Local Action Team (LAT), Patients Participation Group (PPG), Horsham Area Local Councils (HALC), the Joint Parishes Youth Committee, and the Neighbourhood Wardens Steering Committee. Indeed, the Neighbourhood Wardens together with the Youth Service Workers are financially supported by Steyning Parish Council in partnership with Bramber and Upper Beeding Councils in order to create a safer and more inclusive community.

The Parish Council members are volunteers, and we could not complete the work we have committed to without the help of other volunteers from the community, for which the Council is very grateful. A total of fifteen Councillors represent the Steyning residents, there being 5990 residents living within the Parish as per 2011 Census.

Situated in the Steyning Centre in the heart of Steyning, the Parish Council offices are well placed to encourage the public to drop in for information or to discuss general enquiries or specific issues. The Steyning Centre is the main building for which the Council is responsible. The full SPC Asset List is available on the Web Site as is the SPC Land register and the Council has to be an effective custodian of these assets, property and associated historic documents.

The administration, management and governance of Council Assets and its Land is the day-to-day responsibility of the Clerk as the 'proper officer'. Councillors oversee this role and work with the Clerk to ensure services are maintained at the highest level and proactive development of the services Steyning Parish Council provides is encouraged.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COUNCIL

The Parish Council has responsibility for the following:

- Responding to resident enquiries and Freedom of Information (FOI) requests.
- The Memorial Playing Field (MPF) which has Village Green status is home to the Steyning Cricket, Bowls and Tennis Clubs and provides pitches for the local football and Stoolball clubs. It is also the site of the War Memorial and Memorial Garden.
- Chandler's Way children's play area.
- Fletcher's Croft play area.
- Abbey Road play area and open space.
- Changing rooms and Car Park at the MPF.
- Allotments at Canada Gardens and Rublees.
- Notice board in the High Street by the main car park entrance.
- Meeting the energy costs of the street lighting in the town owned by the council.
- Street furniture including seats, waste bins and welcome sign
- Litter removal from the MPF, play areas and part of the High Street from White Horse to Tanyard Lane.
- Financial support for the swimming pool at the Leisure Centre.
- Management of the Parish Council's budget and facilities.
- Exercising, as appropriate, the General Power of Competence.
- Public toilets on the High Street.
- Submitting comments on all planning applications and change of use applications in Steyning as a statutory consultee of the Planning Authorities (Horsham District Council and South Downs National Park Authority).
- Management of the Steyning Community Centre
- The overseeing of its assets, including the bowls, cricket and tennis club premises and tennis courts, to ensure that they are correctly maintained by tenants.

As with all public bodies, we have to deal with all tasks such as dealing with incoming correspondence, supervising contractors, and monitoring budgets effectively and ensure we keep residents informed of decisions and proposals that may affect them. We experience peaks of activity when we are running specific projects.

Community Buildings, Assets, Functions and the Council's Main Aims

The Steyning Centre houses the Clerk and Deputy Clerks' offices, two large halls with a commercial sized kitchen and bar, two committee rooms, public toilets and an office rented to HDC – Building Control. The Centre is managed by the Clerks' office and by a team of dedicated caretakers. The Steyning Centre is the community hub, providing rooms for hire to groups both from within and from outside the community and the rental income it generates provides an invaluable contribution to the running costs. The Centre runs at a small loss each year and the Council endeavours to find innovative ways to increase income, such as the hugely successful Community Cinema, to mitigate any losses. To ensure that the Centre continues to be attractive to both local community groups and to outside potential hirers, it is essential that it is well maintained, and that equipment and facilities are regularly inspected in accordance with regulations.

Purpose – The Council promotes strong community use of the centre, offering a varied programme of activities and event and meeting opportunities for all ages while being mindful of increasing income.

Financial Information - The Parish Council is mainly funded by the residents of Steyning, through what is known as the 'precept'. This is the local tax levied by the Parish Council which is collected on its behalf by Horsham District Council as part of the Council Tax bill. The Council determines its annual budget through committee and then Full Council agreement. This annual budget is fully allocated and includes an amount each year for specific projects. Unless the Parish Council is able to secure new grant funding, which is only available for certain activities, any new activities or facilities not covered by the budget and which require additional resources would either have to replace an existing activity, be funded from reserves, or be funded via an increase in the precept.

Purpose - Steyning Parish Council is advised to hold in general reserve of 50% of its working budget. As well as maintaining assets the Council should seek to proactively seek ways to offer better service and facility provision

Parish Council Communications - The Parish Council recognises the role of good communication in building positive relationships with the public and with organisations that provide services in the parish. We will continue to seek to improve established channels of communication and find new ones.

Purposes -

- Be well-informed about the needs and opinions of the parish's residents and businesses by consulting them on major issues
- Improve services to the public by encouraging Council members and staff to develop their skills by undertaking appropriate training
- Ensure Councillors are kept informed of new opportunities and policies
- Be a good and fair employer by providing fulfilling work opportunities and conditions for its staff
- Continuously promote public participation and initiatives in Parish Council meetings
- Deal with enquiries and fault reports from members of the public within government guidelines

Governance - To achieve the objectives detailed above, the Council will:

Purposes -

- Continuously review and update the Parish Council website to make navigation of the site, to find information, simple and easy
- Post regular news of the Council's activities, reports of meetings, other important news and, initiatives on the new website
- Review and introduce other methods of distribution for Council news
- Continue to provide an opportunity at each Parish Council/committee meeting for public speaking and comments
- Report at the Annual Parish Meeting the previous twelve months' activities
- Conduct a review of training needs of both Councillors and staff following any Governance changes and then review annually
- Invite representatives of outside agencies to address the Council on key matters of interest to Parish Council/Committee meetings
- Invite members of the public with specialist skills to participate in working parties
- Set up working groups with other statutory and voluntary bodies, businesses, residents and other stakeholders as appropriate, in order to facilitate coordinated effort
- Appoint representatives to appropriate external agencies and committees
- Attend relevant conferences and be involved with appropriate town organisations

The Memorial Playing Field (MPF) is a registered village green and is used by residents to walk dogs and for general leisure activities. The MPF has a Tennis Club with three courts; a Bowls Club and Cricket club all on land owned by the Council but leased to the individual clubs. In addition, there are two football pitches, a large play area, a small play area with swings for toddlers, a basketball court and an exercise trail. A local community group is revitalising the existing orchard and is planting new trees.

The MPF is maintained by a contractor. The grass is mowed to an agreed schedule, and they also keep the long grass on the verges to an agreed standard. The cricket square is maintained by the cricket club. Football pitches are marked out by the Steyning football club. Anyone wanting to organise a particular team sports activity requiring a marked-out pitch, must seek permission to do so from the Council.

Purpose - To keep the MPF maintained and open at all times for residents of the 'locality', while maintaining changing facilities for the different sports activities and ensuring that as many sports/activities as possible can take place to encourage residents of all ages to engage in non-organised outdoor activities

Tree Survey and Tree Warden - The Council will continue to commission a full tree survey and management plans of all its open spaces and has a tree warden who will monitor the condition of the trees and advise the Council when action needs to be taken.

Purpose - To monitor the trees in all open spaces to ensure their safe condition

Village Greens - Steyning has two village greens. The Memorial Playing Field and Abbey Road.

There are restrictions on using the green e.g.: access to vehicles, alcohol consumption, restricting any construction. We would advise members of the public to keep clear of any area designated for a particular sport when clubs are using the allotted space.

Purpose - To erect suitable signs to indicate how the green may be used and by whom. To manage the green within the law and to ensure that all the clubs using the green continue to thrive and prosper.

Allotments - The Council manages two allotments sites – Rublees and Canada Gardens with 150 whole and half plots in total. Both are situated on the Western side of the MPF. Approximately 50% of allotment holders are members of the Allotments Association. The Council regularly updates its allotment regulations taking into consideration that the allotments are within the South Downs National Park. There is often a waiting list for this sought-after location. The allotments are generally well managed by the allotment holders themselves, but regularly inspected by the Council. There is a Council promoted annual clear up and 'spruce'.

Purpose - To ensure that the rental income from the allotments covers the costs of maintenance and that there is no impact on council taxpayers, whilst ensuring not to make a profit either.

Clubhouses/Tennis Courts - The Council oversees the Tennis, Bowls and Cricket Club provision and leases. These facilities are valuable assets, and we undertake an annual inspection to ensure that the clubs maintain their premises to an acceptable level. Under the law for Village Greens, the clubs must allow free and reasonable access to anyone within the 'locality' of Steyning, but this does not include any days that the clubs have for club games, practice or matches.

Purpose - To ensure that the clubhouses are maintained to an acceptable level and club participation is promoted.

Play areas - The Council has seven children's play areas:

Memorial Playing Field (2)
 Norman Way
 Abbey Road
 South Ash
 Chandler's Way
 Fletchers Croft

All the play areas are inspected monthly by trained staff and then annually by Wicksteed's. All the play equipment needs regular maintenance, and the majority of the Playing Fields budget is spent on this.

Purpose - To continue to provide children's play areas, keeping them well maintained and continue to inspect all children's play equipment regularly

Activities for young people - We recognise that modern life in a small town for young people can be difficult with limited facilities available and that the provision of youth sport and leisure activities is an effective means of combatting anti-social behaviour and building a stronger and better community. The Council will continue to work with others to encourage people of all ages to get out into the open air for non-organised activities.

Purpose - To ensure the youth service provider and others, such as the Steyning Downland Scheme, encourage youngsters to take part in non-organised outdoor activities and a wide range of organised activities.

Open Spaces, Countryside and South Downs National Park - Steyning is ideally placed on the edge of the South Downs National Park (SDNP) and areas of outstanding natural beauty. From Steyning there are many walks over countryside or, downland hills and also a number of river walks. There are many cycle paths and walks suitable for all – including wheelchairs and scooters.

Purposes -

- **To maintain for each of our open spaces, a current management plan balancing public access, visual appeal and the needs of wildlife, promoting and protecting biodiversity in carrying out their functions.**
- **To work with key organisations and volunteers to help with our management plans to maintain these sites as best we can given the resources available to us.**
- **To keep our open spaces open to all members of the community at all times regardless of any events that may take place on the land.**

Signage - The Council have recently completed an overhaul, with WSCC, of the key signs as visitors enter the town and will continue to ensure that they are updated and meaningful. In addition, there are period finger post signs in the High Street which have been provided by the Steyning and District Partnership.

Purpose - To ensure that all street signs are updated and meaningful

Grants received - The Council has been very successful in gaining a number of important grants over the last few years. **Purpose - To continue to seek grants and match funding opportunities as projects arise**

Grants given - Each year the Council gives grants to various local community groups who work tirelessly on behalf of the community to enhance the town. These grants include Steyning in Bloom for the floral arrangements in the High Street, the Steyning Business Chamber, and the Royal British Legion for the upkeep of the memorial garden.

Purpose - To continue to support local community groups through grant aid where possible, prioritising those that benefit Steyning residents the most; those that best help us to meet our objectives and those groups in greatest financial need.

Community Events - Steyning has a number of key community led events that not only bring the community together but are valuable in promoting the town to visitors. The Council supports these events wherever it can and is grateful for the work that these dedicated volunteers put into events such as the Steyning Festival and Summer Fair both held biennially, the annual Christmas late night shopping event, the Steyning Food and Wine Festival and the Farmers, French and Italian markets.

Community Groups - Steyning is fortunate in having many diverse sports and social clubs and there is something for everyone. For sport, apart from the Cricket, Tennis and Bowls clubs, there are athletics, table tennis, swimming, walking, stool ball and football clubs and you can even learn to scuba dive! For social clubs there is a wide choice from art to music, films to literature and dancing to keep fit. All these clubs are run by volunteers from the community, and we thank them for their hard work and for the enjoyment that they give to our residents.

Steyning Heritage and Planning

“To enhance and promote the historic and cultural heritage of Steyning and to safeguard its unique identity as a town on the edge of the South Downs National Park”

Steyning is proud of its historical heritage stretching back to Medieval times. We have over 100 listed buildings and these buildings are highly significant and should be preserved at all costs. Steyning also has a Special Area of Controlled Advertising. To ensure that the ‘historic street scene’ of the town is preserved the Council updated its Steyning Conservation Area - Character Appraisal and Management Plan in 2014 and has written to all residents in listed buildings to inform them of the planning restrictions on their properties. We pay particular attention to plans associated with our heritage as we want to preserve these assets for the town. The Conservation Area Plan will be consulted on as part of the Neighbourhood Plan process and the Council is seeking Article Four Direction on its Conservation Area Plan, which will add a further layer of protection.

The Council is mindful that the socio-economic future of the town will mean that the town cannot stand still but whenever new development is proposed in, or close to, the centre of the town, the Council will ensure that it is sympathetic to our cultural heritage. As part of the statutory planning process, HDC must consult the Parish Council on planning applications. Our Planning Committee scrutinises hundreds of applications each year providing feedback to the District Council. We give a local view of any proposed building work and our feedback can be broad ranging. Interested residents frequently ask us for our views on a proposed development and developers will often seek our input before they submit their application.

Purpose - To oppose any plans to alter the ‘historic street scene’ of Steyning and to encourage house owners and shop owners alike to be sympathetic to our cultural heritage so that it can be enjoyed by generations to come.

Town Environment – { Litter Picking, Pavement Sweeping and Bin Emptying }

The Council pays a contractor to empty our litterbins three times per week as well as sweeping the pavements and litter picking daily in the High Street from Church Street to Mouse Lane, from Church Street to St Andrew's Church and in the twitten from the High Street to Newman's Gardens Car Park. WSCC are responsible for all other road/pavement sweeping and bin emptying. Our contractor also empties the litter bins in the MPF three times per week. This costs us in the region of £20K per annum of which the Parish Council receives grants from Horsham District Council. However, if it were not for the efforts of our volunteer litter pickers who regularly litter pick the twittens and other roads, the cost would be a lot higher and possibly unaffordable.

The 'cobbles' area (a small strip of land about 60cms deep approximately) in front of many shops and houses in the High Street is private land and is the responsibility of the owner to make sure that it is clear of rubbish, weeds and pigeon fouling.

Purpose - To continue to monitor the work of any contractor who we employ to empty our litterbins, sweep the pavements and, fully support our litter picking volunteers.

Dog Fouling

Unlike other towns Steyning has a proud record of limited dog fouling on the streets. There are still some inconsiderate dog owners who allow their dogs to foul the twittens, the MPF and other open spaces and play areas. The Council has run two anti-dog fouling campaigns and the wardens run regular patrols on the MPF, all of which has led to some improvement, although it is still short of the high standard that we should all aspire to.

Purpose - To continue the anti-dog fouling campaign, keep up the warden patrols and adopt a 'zero tolerance' stance on dog fouling.

Flooding

The town has two key areas that annually flood: Mouse Lane and Dog Lane. Dog Lane: We have worked with WSCC to provide a solution and the broken culvert under the road has been replaced which appears to have solved the problem. Mouse Lane: This is a much larger problem as it involves natural springs and water run-off from the adjacent fields. Funding was approved through Operation Watershed and the flood risk has been reduced. The Council is aware however that climate change has increased the chance of localised flooding on roads. Existing drainage systems struggle to cope but we hope that the recent works will reduce flooding in the recognised black spots.

Purpose - To work with HDC/WSCC to ensure that clearing of the key drains is prioritised and to monitor any proposed development of the Horsham Road site to prevent any increase in water run-off

Public Safety

The Parish Council has built a good relationship with the local Police, but the town is facing a different type of policing. The Council and its Neighbourhood Wardens are working together with the Police and local Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) to ensure Steyning maintains a relatively low crime level but we do occasionally have peaks of anti-social behaviour.

Purpose - To continue to fund the wardens and youth service provision and monitor closely the work both services provide to ensure there is a working strategy in place to prevent antisocial behaviour

Local Transport, Access, Parking and Roads

Transport and Highways issues are not part of the Parish Council's area of responsibility. However, they are extremely important to our residents, so we spend time working on their behalf bringing our influence to bear on the relevant authorities – principally WSCC.

Neither the District nor County Council has control of the local bus services, and bus companies are free to choose where and when services run. At the moment Steyning has a reasonable bus service.

In addition to this, local community groups such as Steyning Good Neighbours and Steyning Minibus, provide transport for the elderly. We are acutely aware that transport is a key issue for the elderly and, with an ageing population that this need will increase. The lack of transport primarily affects the ability of younger and older members of the community to participate in activities inside the town, to get to hospitals in Worthing, Horsham and Brighton, and to get to the out-of-town shopping facilities.

Purposes - To work with the bus companies to try to maintain the existing service levels and, to lobby the companies for improvements in accordance with the needs of residents.
- To support the Partnership and local community transport groups to develop a cohesive transport strategy for the future

Access

The town has two main entrances: one off the Bramber roundabout and one off the A283 by-pass. Steyning is well signposted from the Bramber entrance but less well from the by-pass. The Steyning and District Partnership – Visitor and Tourism Group – are looking at plans to provide better 'gateways' to Steyning, to attract more tourists.

Purpose - To support the partnership to develop the 'gateways' to Steyning

Parking

The town has three car parks: Fletchers Croft, Newman's Gardens, and the High Street with a total of nearly 300 spaces. Parking illegally in the High Street remains a problem.

There are many cars parked on the side roads. These parking issues arise because many new properties have insufficient parking associated with them. The Council through its local knowledge, scrutinises all plans to ensure that there is sufficient parking for each house, or development, to relieve on-street parking. Also, some parking issues occurred when Horsham District Council implemented parking charges in all car parks which forced long stay parking onto the local streets.

Purpose - To continue to scrutinise all new development to make sure that adequate off-street parking has been provided

Roads

Steyning is ideally situated being only a few miles off the A27 and from the A24. It is served by a very busy by-pass, the A283, which takes traffic away from the centre of town. The High Street is busy most days and with illegal parking on the yellow lines, traffic flow is slowed down. Church Street and Shooting Field have heavy traffic flow between 8.00 and 8.45am and 3.15 and 3.45pm during term time. The Grammar School coaches transport approximately 1,200 children in each day via the Horsham Road, but this is actively managed by the school and is a well-practised routine which continues to minimise congestion.

Purpose – To continually monitor the traffic flow through the town and act where necessary if the safety of drivers or pedestrians is at risk

Snow and Ice and Gritting

The clearing of snow and gritting on all roads in Steyning is the responsibility of WSCC. We have a snow clearing and gritting priority plan and we have purchased a number of grit bins which are situated at key junctions around the town. We have a stock of grit and the grit bins are regularly re-filled. This grit can be used by residents and shopkeepers to grit public areas such as pavements. When possible, the High Street is cleared of snow by our own road-sweeper, but we do not have the resources to do all the roads ourselves. The grit is not for use for by residents to grit their own paths and driveways.

- Purposes**
- To continue to maintain the grit bins
 - To continue to ensure snow and ice is cleared from the High Street where possible
 - To continue to update the winter action plan as necessary

Reporting Faults

Residents should report highways faults directly on the Love West Sussex website or, if necessary, through the Parish Clerk. Examples include potholes, damaged or dirty signage, faulty streetlights, blocked gullies, and inadequate street cleaning. The High Street pavements are cleaned by our own street cleaner and any concerns should be reported to the Parish Clerk.

- Purposes**
- To act promptly on all fault complaints and to work with WSCC to ensure the work is Completed
 - To take a proactive role in keeping businesses informed of planned road works

Steyning Economy and Development

Steyning Parish Council wishes to encourage and promote the economic and commercial vitality of the town to ensure its future prosperity and sustainability by:

- Purposes**
- Working in partnership with local traders, the Steyning and District Community Partnership and the Business Chamber to help sustain the current retail offering that gives the High Street its vibrancy
 - To seek to promote the town as a place to do business and encourage tourism and local visitors whenever we have the opportunity

The South Downs National Park

Steyning is situated on the boundary of the South Downs National Park (SDNP) and parts of the town sit within it – a section on the western side of the MPF and the Rublees and Canada Garden allotments. There is a general statutory duty on all relevant authorities to have regard to the SDNP's two purposes and it is a statutory consultee. The two purposes are:

- To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park area by considering the biodiversity, landscape character and qualities, sustainable land management and cultural heritage.
- To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Park by the public.

Purposes - The area surrounding Steyning that is in the SDNP is widely used by walkers and cyclists. As a National Park 'gateway' town, we believe that Steyning can benefit from tourists coming to the park and will support the Steyning and District Partnership, the Business Chamber and other stakeholders in developing more tourism opportunities by promoting and developing an interest in and, exploration of, the wider area and the South Downs themselves.

HOUSING, HEALTH AND EDUCATION

West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) is responsible for the provision of Health and Education services while Horsham District Council (HDC) is responsible for housing. The Parish Council is a 'consultee' and as such can only lobby on these issues.

Housing

The Council recognises the need for new housing in the local area but are concerned that there is extreme pressure from developers to build large, high value properties with few affordable homes for local residents and first-time buyers.

As part of the government's push towards increased local power (The Localism Act), local communities can create a Neighbourhood Plan. Neighbourhood planning is a new way for communities to decide the future of the places where they live and work.

As a community, we can influence where we want developers to build new homes, shops, and offices. We can have our say on what those new buildings should look like, and the infrastructure required. We can also advise on planning permission for the new buildings we want to see go ahead.

The Neighbourhood Plan (NP) which has recently been completed by the Parish Council will help bring some clarity to the need for development within Steyning and will be supported by the Horsham District Council. The NP will have to go to a referendum for approval and will thereafter be reviewed and updated by the Council.

Purpose - To influence planning policy and practice so that the District Council ensures Steyning meets its housing needs and to ensure that provision is made for additional infrastructure if development is approved.

Education

The growing population is putting pressure on our education system at both primary and secondary level. Steyning is fortunate in having two well-regarded schools situated in the town: Steyning Grammar and Steyning Church C of E Primary Schools. Steyning Grammar School has a national and international reputation and has over 2,500 pupils with one of the largest state boarding schools in the country.

Purpose - To continue building strong relationships with the local schools and to support them to ensure that they develop and prosper over the long term to meet the educational needs of the town's youngsters in the long term.

Health

Steyning is very fortunate to have a large health centre situated in the centre of town that serves Steyning and outlying villages. The town is also very fortunate to have a dedicated team of volunteer 'First Responders' who give vital primary care when incidents arise. HDC run an 'Isolation and Loneliness' initiative to tackle the growing problem of people living in isolation in the town. We support this initiative.

Purposes

- To monitor the health and emergency care support for residents in the town.
- To support the 'Loneliness and Isolation' initiative
- To continue to support activities which promote the health and wellbeing of the residents