

**West Wittering Neighbourhood Plan**

**HERITAGE AND ASSETS**

**Focus Group Working Paper**

**December 2017**



CONTENTS

**INTRODUCTION**

**Overview**

This report sets out the work undertaken by the Assets Treasures and Heritage Focus Group, and our proposed recommendations to be considered for the West Wittering draft Neighbourhood Plan.

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**The Asset Treasures and Heritage Focus Group Members**

**Joanne Brown**

**Nicolette Pike**

**Angela Ward**

**Introduction**

West Wittering is a rural seaside village one third of which is an Area of Outsanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and bordered on two sides by water on the western extremity of the Manhood Peninsular. The main settlement forms two sections separated by a significant green gap of farmland. The western part contains most of the historic property, the centre of which is a designated Conservation Area containing many listed buildings. The eastern section contains more modern post war property.

The village contains several green spaces as well as open space for use by the community for recreational activities together with several buildings for the benefit of the village.

The area is also rich in biodiversity and recognised as internationally important habitat for birds flora and fauna. As a result parts of the area are protected from any inappropriate development because of their European designations which are there as a result of recognition of their importance for wildlife.

The village is extremely popular but nevertheless has managed to retain its historic character and rural feel.

The area has long been a destination for holiday makers and day trippers to the beach. This has had the effect on the village of creating traffic and parking issues and the rise in the number of second homes.

**Aim and Objectives of group**

The Focus Group’s aim and objectives are based upon a strong foundation of evidence from the following:

* Responses given in the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire
* Input from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and Focus Groups
* Input from Neighbourhood Plan workshops;
* Input from local stakeholder groups – have we had any input from historical society etc?

The Focus Group’s aim is to establish which natural and built heritage assets existing within the village are valued by the community. Further the Group has attempted to establish what features in the village are recognised as assets and what features are not appreciated. The Group also consulted the community on what features were missing in the village and would be seen as future assets to the village community.

In delivering this aim, the Focus Group has the following objectives:

***1. To meet the needs and expectations of local people by ensuring respect is shown to the village’s heritage assets and character in all decision making and to preserve the distinct character areas of the village together with the green spaces.***

***2. In accordance with local and national policy, to provide for a sustainable future for the heritage assets and green spaces in the village within the context of any future sustainable development required to take place within the village***

3. To adhere to the guidance set out in the Village Design Statement to ensure that any new development preserve and enhance the village’s built and natural heritage.

To inform and shape these objectives, we undertook a SWOT analysis:

**SWOT Analysis for Group**

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| --- | --- |
| **Strengths:**  **The village has a historic core and many natural assets all protected by statutory designations. It also has a robust VDS which is in the process of being updated. It is an area much loved by residents and visitors** | **Weaknesses:**  **The village has poor infrastructure yet attracts large numbers of vehicles for which the roads and parking provision is inadequate** |
| **Opportunities:**  **To create a local policy framework to address the special character and spaces valued by residents and villagers alike** | **Threats:**  **Poor quality inappropriate development heavy traffic and inappropriate parking** |

**Summary of issues and concerns (backed with evidence)**

This section sets out evidence against each of the above objectives identified by the group to help achieve our overall aim. As a Focus group, we fully recognise our role as identifying issues affecting the parish and suggesting/making recommendations to be fully consulted with residents.

To enable us achieve this, we have undertaken a review of the key current policy framework within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the existing Chichester Local Plan (CLP) and emerging (Review) of the Chichester Local Plan.

**Objective 1: examine whether there are any heritage assets or heritage character (including conservation area) concerns that may require recommendations in the Neighbourhood Plan;**

The Village is fortunate to have a significant number of heritage assets and sites, most of which are currently designated with some form of statutory designation. The centre of the western side of the Village is designated as a Conservation Area. There are also numerous listed buildings within the village which are listed in the Annex. Based on current information and analysis the Group believes that the combination of listing and statutory designations provide adequate protection for the most important of the heritage assets. Further the design guidance provided in the Village Design statement sets out the main character features for the various character areas of the village which should be referred to in any future development decisions.

***Recommendation 2a:***

Any new development within the NP area should be built in accordance with the VDS

The Village is fortunate enough to have green infrastructure which produces a network of green spaces that provide opportunities for biodiversity and recreation. These include:

* West wittering beach and East Head
* parks and gardens
* natural and semi-natural greenspaces – including woodlands, grasslands, wetlands, salt marshes and foreshore
* green corridors – including a network of footpaths, coastal paths and rights of way
* outdoor sports facilities owned by the Parish Council or privately owned and cycleways
* amenity greenspace
* provision for children and teenagers
* allotments
* cemeteries and churchyards
* accessible countryside

The Focus Group recognises that the Statutory designations, the NPPF, the Core Strategy, and wider District Policies, create a very good framework to both enhance and to promote biodiversity within the development and planning process.

***Recommendation 3:***

***We need Angela’s input here***

A public consultation was held on 23rd November 2017 which was advertised throughout the village by notices and group invitation. The evening was well attended by 40 residents who were asked to complete comment sheets. There was also a slide show of local heritage and treasures.

The most treasured of the village assets was recorded as:

* the beach, harbour and coastline
* the church
* sports facilities including the cricket ground and Millennium Sportsfield
* the sailing club
* natural beauty of the village

A full list of the likes is appended

At the same consultation the attendees highlighted their dislikes and things that they considered missing from the Village.

The missing assets were recorded as:

* Affordable Housing
* Nursing and care facilities
* Pub (this was closed at the time)
* Parking strategy
* Hostel or family holiday accommodation
* Wheelchair access to the beach
* Park and ride
* Footway from Village to Lamb pub
* Lack of attachment with East wittering
* Play area for 8 to 16 years
* Art workshop

The residents dislikes were recorded as:

* Heavy traffic to the beach
* Bad parking
* Litter and dog fouling
* Second homes
* Cycling on footpaths
* Overdevelopment (2 for 1 replacement dwellings)
* Poor public transport
* Inadequate dog waste bins

In the Focus Group SWOT analysis one of the weaknesses identified was severe traffic congestion issues on busy beach days together with a lack of parking within the village creating problems with inappropriate parking causing further congestion. Inadequate affordable housing and the numerous second homes were also of concern to the community. A lack of adequate road infrastructure was highlighted in the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire and consultation, which contained numerous comments from residents about existing problems with parking and road congestion

*Add evidence from surveys, assessments, existing literature, workshops, open days etc.*

**Annex A: List of Key Evidence Used (surveys, workshops, public events, existing information, census, etc.)**

Consultation with the Wives Group on ##############

Consultation with the community in a Heritage Assets and Treasures workshop on 23rd November 2017

Consultation with the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group on ##########

Reference to the Village Design Statement

Reference to the information contained in the village Neighhbourhood Plan Questionnaire responses completed in ########

Consultation with any other groups, statutory bodies etc ############

**Annex B: List of stakeholders we approached**

|  |
| --- |
| Who |
| Should this include our work and Angela’s ? |
| Village questionnaire to all residents |
| West wittering primary school pupils |
| Public consultation evening on 23rd November 2017 |
| West Wittering Wives Group |
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**Annex C**

**List of Listed buildings in the village**

**Annex D**

**Map showing statutory designations of the Village**

**Annex E list of attendees at public consultation and analysis of the responses to the questionnaires**