

Selsey Community Plan

Report

2012



A Brighter future for Selsey...

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INTRODUCTION

This Report should be read in conjunction with the Selsey Community Vision 2011 document which can be found at www.selseytowncouncil.gov.uk A copy is available for review at Selsey Town Council offices.

The public consultation identified issues for consideration and priorities for attention were established. During the consultation period there have been developments which affect these priorities and, obviously, there will continue to be issues arising resulting in changing priorities.

In this Report and based upon information currently available the Selsey Community Plan Steering Group (SCPSG) has set out under the 4 established headings the current position with each of the identified priorities, with comments regarding how the objectives are being addressed or how (and by whom) actions might be arranged.

Separate action groups have not been formed and in the short term SCPSG will continue to monitor, evaluate and review progress under the identified headings keeping the community informed about progress and achievements. In the longer term changes in the SCPSG structure may be considered in the light of The Localism Act 2011 and other relevant developments.

Acknowledgements and thanks are due to all who have been involved as members of SCPSG, being Bev Tinson (Bev was the Chair of the group from start up through to completion of the Vision document), Julian Aubanel, Richard Bramall, Linda Frampton, Gail Isted, Richard Isted, Charlie Lindsay, Carol Purnell, John Smith, Sheila Smith, Ellis Berg, Mike Nicholls, Jason Bream, and Ben Cooper. Also, to Gill Jennings and Llewella Allen for their help conducting surveys, and to the business managers of Seal Medical Group and Selsey Medical Practice and others for material included in this Report. Apologies to anyone whose name may have been overlooked.

Many hours of work have been contributed and much local knowledge has been shared in compiling the Vision document and this Report which it is hoped will assist towards further development of Selsey as a progressive vibrant community, a safe and attractive place to live or visit.

Fred Allen
Chairman 2012

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group for permission to reproduce the 'Parish Map' shown on the back page. Copy of the map may be bought from the Town Hall with proceeds going into the groups funds.
- Selsey Town Council for funding contribution and for picture of Welcome to Selsey Sign on front cover, plus other pictures.
- West Sussex County Council for funding contribution .
- Chichester District Council for reports and for officer support.
- Action in Rural Sussex (AIRS)

A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE

Top Four Community Chosen Priorities

1. Sea defence improvements to include accessibility for all to sea wall, promenade all round, cycle path and signposting
2. Limit Housing Development - no development without infrastructure improvements, better building control
3. Improve visitor attractions and benefits - make more use of sea front, fishing and heritage, consideration of boat haven
4. Parking enforcement (see Staying and feeling Safe section for update)

1. Sea Defences

Sea Defences is a high priority issue identified in the public consultation. Action is on-going with major projects being undertaken by the Environment Agency and Bunn Leisure, with information available on these websites and others: -

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods/109062.aspx>

<http://www.chichester.co.uk/news/local/leisure-firm-digs-deep-to-fund-selsey-scheme-1-3641806>

<http://www.saveourselsey.org/news.htm>

There are other issues such as who will pay for repairs like the damage to the sea wall at the end of Lifeboat Way. Selsey Town Council has started to ring fence budget to offer as a contribution towards major capital schemes on coastal defences in the future and to support on-going maintenance. As a result the Council ring fenced £25k in the financial year to 31/3/12 and have budgeted to ring fence the same in 2012/13 financial year. It is only a relatively small amount but under the new contributions policy introduced in 2011 it will help to leverage some funding.

Also, Chichester District Council has received approval for a beach management plan from the Regional Flood Board and the Environment Agency. This is understood to be for their entire frontages (Pagham to East Head).

The defences however, are still at risk from the proposed implementation of Marine Conservation Zones which could stop the coastal operating authorities delivering schemes for risk of interfering with the Zone. Equally it could lock up shingle if the shingle moves into the Zone. See the Natural England web-site for further information - <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/marine/protectandmanage/mpa/mcz/default.aspx>

No easy solutions to these problems are likely to be found and sea defences will inevitably remain an on-going issue being addressed by Selsey Town Council in conjunction with Chichester District Council, Selsey Coastal Trust (referred to elsewhere in this Plan) and individual property owners. Protecting Medmerry and Pagham harbours will continue to be a major issue, the long term viability of which will have a major impact on our defences.

2. Housing Development

Chichester District Council, the local planning authority, is working on a 'Local Plan' for the district excluding the South Downs National Park. The Local Development Scheme which sets out the timetable for the various consultation stages of documents indicates that the new Local Plan document submitted for examination towards the end of Summer 2013 with the document being adopted by the end of 2014.

For assessing planning applications, there are a number of policy documents that are used. The National Planning Policy Framework which was adopted in February 2012 replaces previous national planning policy document, the South East Plan which is the regional strategy and the Local Plan "saved" policies that were adopted in April 1999. This means that they are currently using saved policies from the adopted 1999 Local Plan.

Until the South East Plan is revoked, the housing requirement that it sets out for Chichester District Council to meet is 480 houses per year for the whole district, including the area covered by the national park.

Local Planning Authorities need to produce a 5 Year Housing Land Supply document to show whether they can meet the housing requirement set out in the South East Plan. Currently, the Council have a shortfall of 460 dwellings.

The interim policy called 'Facilitating Appropriate Development' has been put in place to encourage development to come forward. It should also ensure that applications coming forward which look to build outside the Settlement Policy Area are not inappropriate.

At the same time that the Local Plan is being progressed, Selsey Town Council is embarking on the creation of a 'Neighbourhood Plan'. Neighbourhood Plans are a new initiative from the Localism Act 2011 and allow Parish Councils to create a plan for their area. The plan cannot be used to say no to development and must be in agreement with the Council's Local Plan, it can be used to identify appropriate sites for development and include such things as quality and design of build etc. It can also identify the items necessary to allow for further expansion of areas like infrastructure etc.

Once a Neighbourhood Plan has been through the relevant legal processes (in consultation with residents) it will be examined by an Independent Inspector/Examiner and subject to any proposed amendments, a referendum will be held. The Neighbourhood Plan will need to gain a majority vote to be able to be adopted. When adopted the Local Planning Authority will then have to take the Plan into account when looking at planning applications.

3. Improved Visitor Attractions

Selsey Coastal Trust (SCT) is a community enterprise established in 2011 after 3 years of planning & feasibility testing.

Its vision is to create a series of regeneration schemes along Selsey's coastline with a maritime/environmental flavour, all linked by a path that will help Selsey become a higher-value, longer-stay tourist destination providing facilities for locals and visitors alike.

SCT will aim to deliver long term socio-economic benefits for Selsey and produce surplus revenue for the Trust. The Trust will use this surplus to generate funding towards maintaining Selsey's coastal defences through a delivery partnership with the Coastal Operating Authorities. The Trust intends to apply to become a charity in the near future.

For further information see the SCT website: - <http://selseycoastaltrust.org.uk/>

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

Top Four Community Chosen Priorities

1. Cinema / theatre
2. Youth facilities to include indoor and outdoor venues
3. Fibre Optic / faster Broadband
4. Improve transport links - rail / tram to Chichester, more cost effective bus service with better routing round Selsey

1. CINEMA/THEATRE IN SELSEY

Various groups like SACOS and CLOUD 9 put on excellent performances of classic shows in the town using general space at Selsey Town Hall, Selsey Centre and The Academy, Selsey. Grateful acknowledgement is made to these venues and the performers. In addition Seal Primary Academy is developing a film club for the children and individuals are looking at forming an Arts Dream group to produce a community arts festival in 2014.

There has always been an aspiration in the town for the restoration of the old cinema and the availability of a dedicated performance space. Through the work of a local developer and a group of helpers this project is slowly moving forward. At present the building houses an active classic shake bar and there are ambitious plans for its ultimate restoration to its original use.

2. Youth Facilities

YOUTH DREAM is a constituted voluntary organisation set up to encourage all youth organisations to work together to complement one another and meet the needs of young people in Selsey. These have been identified in a questionnaire and will continue to be heard through a youth council. A forum for organisations enables regular communication and a directory of activities is being handed to all school children in Selsey. Music, sports, art and drama events have been organised and Teen Zone youth group meets on Wednesday to complement the work of the Snak Shak drop in and Scouts and Guides which both have waiting lists. Partnerships with schools, the Neighbourhood Panel, local PCSO's and Community Wardens seek to address issues of anti-social behaviour and support from West Sussex County Council ensures specialist workers are on hand to assist when issues of addiction, disease and other needs arise.

3. Fibre Optic / Faster Broadband

Chichester District Council, through the Local Enterprise Partnership, are working to get funding and commitment from the broadband service providers to give proper service to the less populated areas, and plans to bring improved broadband to West Sussex have been approved by the government releasing the £6.2m allocated to the county for this major project. This means 90% of the county will have super-fast broadband by April 2015.

The non-digital exchanges in our district are to be upgraded ready for superfast broadband to enable the superfast service in the near future. For monitoring and keeping up with latest progress go to http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/your_council/have_your_say/broadband_west_sussex_-_sign_up_for_better_faster_bro.aspx

4. Improve Transport Links

There has always been a romantic fascination in the town with the old Selsey Tramway and a desire on the part of some for a new version to be built. Lack of resources means this remains a pipe dream in the present situation. However Selsey is blessed with a 15 minute link bus service into Chichester and community buses (Selsey Shuttle) which give access to services around the town and across to the west side of the peninsula. Local city supermarkets also provide free shopping trips into the stores. The Venture Club provides a much appreciated local service for older people and those with disabilities and organisations like Sammy Transport provide vehicles across to the Bognor Area. Some people would like to campaign for alternative bus routes around the town for the number 51.

BETTER HEALTH FOR ALL

Top Four Community Chosen Priorities

1. Better health provision - NHS dentist, more doctors, ambulance station
2. More local employment opportunities
3. More green spaces - to include protection of existing green spaces
4. Sports clubs / facilities

1. Better Health Provision

An Ambulance In Selsey

A new Ambulance Community Response Post (ACPR) is now operational in Selsey. The post, which has been brought about following a joint venture between West Sussex County Council Social Services and SECAMB, provides 24/7 facilities for SECAMB (ambulance) staff within Marjorie Cobby House in St Peters Crescent, Selsey. It provides a dedicated room for their use. (taken from SECAMB Bulletin Issue 256 May 2011)

Community First Responders are volunteer members of the community who are trained to respond to certain local 999 calls and can often reach the scene of an emergency before an ambulance arrives. Community First Responders are organised into geographical schemes providing 24/7 cover for their local community. Selsey First Responders come under the South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECAMB) www.secamb.nhs.uk To date SECAMB have installed more public access defibrillators (life-saving equipment used to restart the heart) at sites across the region, bringing the total up to 888. Both of these initiatives are vital in improving survival rates for patients who are suffering from a cardiac arrest. Defibrillators are often sited in locations used by the public such as supermarkets.

Selsey First Responders or SECAMB would be/may be able to say where the AEDs – Automatic External Defibrillators are located, it would not be for the doctors' practices to comment on the location as they could change and then we would be passing on 3rd party information which may be incorrect.

More Doctors

There are 2 doctor's practices in Selsey Medical Centre who together have 11 Doctors - 5 full time and 6 part time, in addition to this both practices have an excellent complement of nurses who can see patients with minor illnesses. Both Practices are also training practices who train already fully qualified doctors who wish to become GPs (General Practitioners). Throughout the year each practice will have at least 2 trainees, they also see patients so increase the number of appointments the practices have available.

At times when the Doctors have their annual or study leave it may be that patients have to wait longer than normal to see a doctor of their choice, however, for those patients who find that they need to see a doctor with conditions that cannot wait, appointments are offered with a duty doctor within the same or next day.

A dentist in Selsey / Medical Centre

The Provision of NHS Dental services is a matter for NHS Sussex.

- NHS Dentist

The 75 page West Sussex NHS Primary Care Trust 'Oral Health Services Strategic Commissioning PLAN 2009-2014' can be found at www.westsussex.nhs.uk/ website. It is a long and complicated document which was used to formulate the Dental Access Tender in 2010. We are informed that one of the areas identified as needing greater access was the Chichester locality and it was decided to award a new contract to Tooth Booth who has set up a practice at The Hornet, Chichester in January of this year. No information is currently available regarding availability of NHS dentistry services in Selsey, and this appears to be a subject requiring attention.

2. Local Employment Opportunities

BUSINESS IN SELSEY

The Selsey Business Partnership arranges a monthly networking meeting on the first Wednesday of each month to encourage local businesses to work together for development and support. Their website indicates other functions to assist existing businesses.

Other agencies are seeking to bring new business to Selsey. The Coastal Trust is seeking new initiatives along the coastline; some have already assisted the fishing industry. Chichester District Council, through their Business Support Officer, operates on a wider canvas seeking to attract companies to open new business in Selsey. The Town Council are also taking an initiative with the creation of a Town Centre Team to implement some of the recommendations of Mary Portas to regenerate the High Street.

Attempts are being made to enable the commercial, voluntary and statutory sectors to work in partnership for the good of the town.

3. More Green Spaces

MANHOOD WILDLIFE AND HERITAGE GROUP

The Group has conducted a mapping exercise of all species across the Peninsula and seeks to maintain

the right biodiversity balance in the area. In Selsey people of all ages who care about our environment, engage in tree planting, beach cleaning, scrub clearing and the placing of bird and bat boxes. There are a number of Selsey specific projects:

- East Beach Pond for pruning, bank consolidation, monitoring water quality and pond dipping
- Crablands Meadow for orchid counts, willow coppicing, bramble clearing, protecting water voles and looking after hedges, trees and wild flowers
- Selsey Common for land management and general work
- Selsey Medical Centre for an aromatic garden
- Manor Green Park with a sensory garden and apple orchard

The Group has won national awards and perform a campaigning, educational and active environmental role in our community.

SELSEY ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

Selsey for a long time had an Allotment Society without any allotments. However, in recent months one site has been acquired which has provided 10 allotments and there is another prospective site which may accommodate a number of further allotments.

SELSEY TOWN COUNCIL

The Town Council continues to manage and maintain a number of open spaces and parks: Recreation Ground, Oval Field, Hillfield Park, East Beach Amenity Area and Manor Green Park. Most of these areas incorporate other facilities and are well used by the community.

4. Sports Clubs / Facilities

SPORTS DREAM: Is a charity 1142665 set up to encourage activity sport recreation and exercise in the town. So far 50 projects have been set up in football, cricket and many other sports for people from aged 4 to 86! A directory of all that happens in Selsey has been published and is available on www.sportsdream.org.uk and plans are being implemented to improve the facilities on the recreation ground and build a new modest sport and community centre where the present football clubhouse stands. Partnership working with The Academy and The Selsey Centre has sought to enable these splendid facilities to be fully utilised. Lunchtime and after school sporting clubs have been formed in the primary schools, and forums to encourage all organisations and enable coordinated joint event planning has been implemented.

STAYING AND FEELING SAFE

Top Four Community Chosen Priorities

1. Cycle paths / safe routes - to Chichester and the rest of the Manhood
2. Improved B2145 and road access, emergency access road, and traffic information
3. Improve policing - visibility and hours of cover
4. Improve Fire Service coverage

1. Cycle Paths

SELSEY CYCLE NETWORK

The organisation exists to promote safe cycling in the Manhood Peninsula. Roads from Chichester are generally too congested for cyclists to ride safely and so to promote safety, tourism and the environment the Network has produced a leaflet identifying the main safe routes from Chichester to Bracklesham, the Witterings and Selsey as well as identifying safe country roads around the peninsula for safe cycling for work and pleasure purposes.

In addition an off road cycle path has been developed from Chichester to the Pagham Nature Reserve Information Centre. Attempts to complete this essential facility all the way to Selsey have been frustrated by a dispute over one small piece of land, essential if the route does not have to cross the busy main road. Partner organisations are working to resolve the issue.

The Network also helps to maintain cycle routes and encourage cycling as a means of healthy exercise.

2. Road and Emergency Access

At present West Sussex County Council have no immediate plans to upgrade the B2145 and its limitations are a major factor in the reluctance to increase the population of Selsey. Equally there are no plans to introduce traffic information schemes to warn Selsey residents when road access is crowded or limited. Lack of resources is a major factor but this would not prevent a campaign group being formed on this issue. BUT there is some good news-an emergency access road is being built from the west end of the Manhood Peninsula to Selsey as part of the Medmerry Realignment Scheme. This will give alternative access to emergency vehicles when needed.

3. Improve Policing

PARKING ENFORCEMENT

Illegal parking (particularly in the High Street) is an issue that is brought up regularly at the Neighbourhood Panel and is one of the top 3 priorities to be looked at. We have had a situation until recently where the yellow lines in the High Street were not enforceable. This has now been corrected by WSCC Highways and the whole of the High Street from Church Road through to the beach at the end of Hillfield Road have been re-lined. It is now the responsibility of CDC Parking Enforcement Officers to patrol and enforce the illegal parking.

CDC is responsible for yellow line parking enforcement. The police are responsible for 'moving violation' enforcement this covers things like parking on zig zag lines etc.

POLICING IN SELSEY

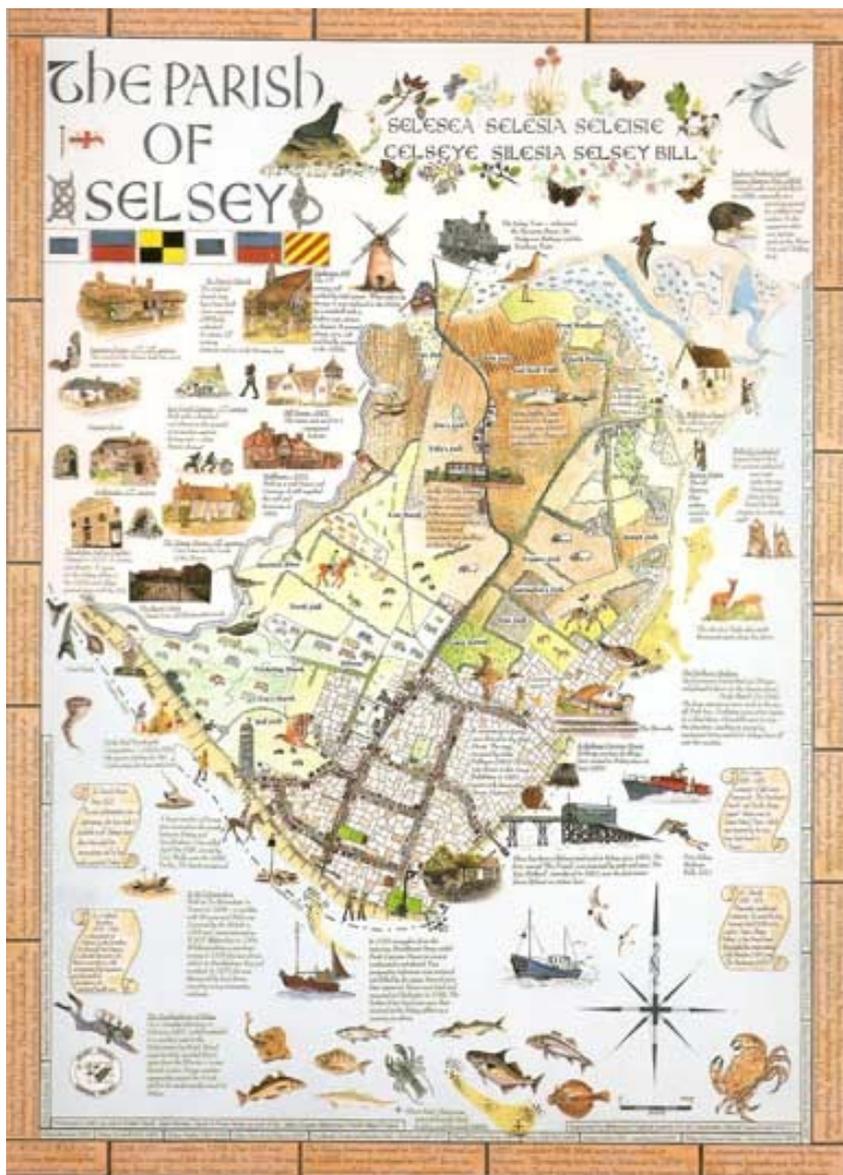
The police station in Selsey is still open but you need to ring to make an appointment to see an officer so many crimes and needs are now being reported over the phone or by the internet. The station in Chichester is still open all day. However, Selsey does have a dedicated team devoted to fighting crime in the town. The local presence is two Police Community Support Officers who are part of the Manhood Neighbourhood Team. In partnership with the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators who keep an eye on houses in the town and the Neighbourhood Panel that meets bi-monthly to identify local priorities, the officers deal with anti-social behaviour, speeding, drugs and other local issues.

Positive initiatives are also taken with education, prevention and interaction with individuals to drive down levels of crime. On the police website maps are available revealing crime hotspots and e-mail updates enable appropriate people to be aware of new criminal developments.

4. Fire Station coverage

WEST SUSSEX FIRE AND RESCUE

Selsey has a fire station manned by a retained/part time fire crew available 24 hours a day. In addition to the traditional image of serving firemen and women putting out a fire a great deal of time is spent on attending emergencies on our roads and meeting other needs. All areas are risk assessed and provision is based on that work. The enforcement of health and safety laws is vital to ensure premises' safety and education about smoke alarms helps to keep homes safe. Education done in a way appropriate to every different community is a vital preventative work and fire stations are becoming community assets used by different community groups. Partnership working with other agencies is vital and the building of an emergency road into Selsey will allow constant access to the town.



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