

Earnley Parish Plan

2016 – 2021



Earnley Parish Council - Vision Statement

Working with the supportive local community, we will strive to maintain and enhance the beauty, tranquillity and safety of our rural parish and its sensitive environment. At the same time we will balance this with the need to promote and encourage a sustainable leisure and tourist economy, with natural pursuits at its heart, to provide appropriate facilities for local residents and to support sustainable agriculture and farming.

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- Introduction.
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- Map of Earnley.
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References:

- 1) Consultation Analysis Report, October 2015.
- 2) Housing Needs Survey, February 2014.
- 3) Earnley & Somerley Conservation Area Plans (Inc. maps), May 2013.
- 4) Chichester District Local Plan
- 5) 2011 Census

All reference documents available at <http://earnleypc.org/index.php/council-documents/>

Introduction.

This plan for Earnley Parish covers the period from 2016- 2021. It contains a series of objectives derived from the local community after a period of consultation, including a questionnaire that parishioners completed, with a response rate of over 65%. The top three concerns or priorities were traffic speed and volume (88%), flood protection (74%) and inappropriate development (68%). Other issues highlighted were the future use of the Earnley Concourse, crime and local transport. This plan and its objectives seeks to address these concerns. Over 40% of respondents stated that they were willing to act as community volunteers.

The Parish Plan sets out to:

- Identify the main issues for Earnley over the next five years.
- Provide an action plan to address these issues and implement agreed objectives.
- To work towards maintaining Earnley Parish as a rural tranquil parish.

This document is an on-going piece of work and will be reviewed at regular intervals.

About Earnley Parish.

The parish of Earnley covers an area of 2.74 square miles or 710 hectares and is located to the south west of Chichester on the Manhood peninsula in the county of West Sussex. The parish consists of the villages or hamlets of Earnley, Almodington, Batchmere and Somerley. It is uniquely situated near to Chichester Harbour, which is designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Earnley is also situated near to Pagham Harbour, the wonderful beaches of West Wittering and Bracklesham and is only a few miles away from Chichester, a historic Roman and Georgian city.

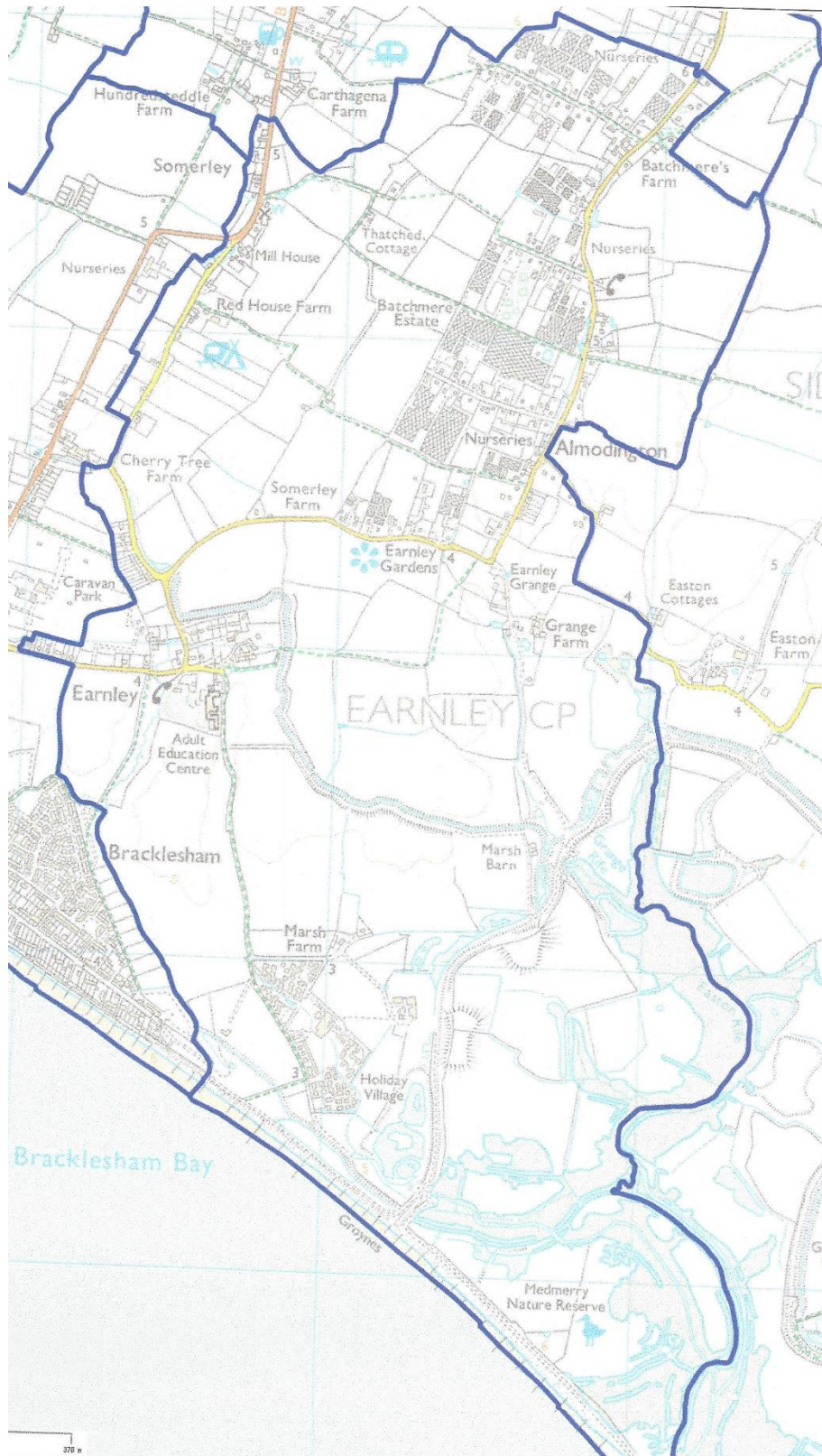
Largely within the boundaries of Earnley parish is the recently constructed Medmerry nature reserve, which is designated as a potential Special Protection Area (SPA), a status it is on course to achieve within the plan period. A small visitors' car park is located just south of Earnley village.

There are a total of 459 residents living in Earnley parish and 214 dwellings. Of the 459 residents, 238 are economically active, 21 are students, 431 are classified as "White British" and 375 are aged 16 or over. The average household is 2.6 persons. (All information taken from the 2011 census).

There is much history to the area, which includes the Land Settlement Association, Earnley Windmill, Earnley Concourse, a number of listed buildings and Earnley church, a fine grade 2 listed medieval building. In addition, Earnley has unusually two conservation areas: one in Earnley village, the other in Somerley.

Earnley Parish is a beautiful rural area consisting of flat open spaces. The rural nature of the environment supports agriculture and farming as its main industry. Earnley is an area that also encourages a wide diversity of wildlife due to the rural and peaceful nature of the environment.

EARNLEY PARISH BOUNDARY MAP



Leisure in Earnley

Earnley is a rural area and most leisure activities are outdoors. Visitors come to the area to walk our many footpaths and to enjoy the open spaces. Bird watchers are able to view rare breeds within the Parish and particularly at Medmerry Nature Reserve, where there is also nearby access to the beach. There is much to enjoy in and around Earnley, whether on foot, horseback or cycle.

Earnley and the surrounding area is very much a rural tourist centre and, along with agriculture, a key part of the parish's economy. We are located near to other tourist attractions, with Chichester, Portsmouth, Brighton and the South Downs being very accessible for all that they offer.

Chichester Harbour and the surrounding area is a thriving sailing hub with many sailing clubs and sailing schools. Other water sports, such as wind and kite surfing, are growing in popularity, particularly with the younger members of the community.

In addition to outdoor activities, Chichester has a famous theatre, the Chichester Festival Theatre, and Pallant House Art Gallery. Chichester cathedral is yet another well-known local tourist attraction for visitors.

Transport.

Earnley is accessed via the A286 and the B2198. Most other roads in the area are country lanes. We have no railway line on the peninsula. Bus services on the main roads are frequent; however, along the country lanes and through Earnley centre they are much less frequent. All movements to or from the peninsula are highly dependent upon transit via the A27.

There are no specifically designated commuter cycle routes linking Earnley to the main centres of employment in East Wittering/Bracklesham and Chichester. Earnley does however have the off road footpath/cycle route/bridleway that links Earnley Village to Selsey, the RSPB at Medmerry and to the beach east of Bracklesham.

Housing Stock.

Earnley Parish has a variety of housing types within the area. These include old listed properties, farm houses and barns, barn conversions, many properties from the 1920s and 1930s Land Settlement Association and some new builds.

There are currently no plans for housing development within the Parish of Earnley. Please see link to Chichester District Local Plan.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTION PLAN

These are objectives for the Parish Council who may appoint sub groups, including other members of the community.

Following ratification of this plan by Earnley Parish Council in May 2016, these objectives will be reviewed six monthly and an addendum report provided which will be attached to the Parish Plan on Earnley Parish Council website.

Earnley Parish Plan will also be a standard agenda item for all Annual Meetings of Parish Electors.

Objective 1. To ensure that people drive within the speed limits within Earnley Parish.

Actions:

- a) Consult with West Sussex County Council Highways Team, Chichester District Council, Sussex Police and traffic consultants as necessary to establish the most appropriate traffic calming solutions.
- b) Encourage random police speed monitoring and enforcement.
- c) Investigate civilian speed camera use and reporting.
- d) Encourage resident speed monitoring, recognition and recording.
- e) Establish a reporting link with the police and local farmers
- f) Establish links with Chichester Road Safety Action Group (RSAG)

Objective 2. To support appropriate housing development and land use in Earnley and to object to inappropriate housing development and land use.

Actions:

- a) Constantly monitor planning applications to ensure they comply with Local/Neighbourhood Plans and Conservation Area Plans.
- b) Monitor all planning applications to ensure the rural nature of the parish is maintained.
- c) Provide supportive comments, rather than 'no objection' to planning applications that maintain the rural nature of the Parish.
- d) To oppose large/inappropriate housing developments or land use in Earnley and other Manhood parishes, where there is a potential adverse impact to Earnley Parish.

Objective 3. To work towards the best possible flood risk reduction within Earnley Parish.

Actions:

- a) Work with the Birdham and Earnley Flood Prevention group, West Sussex County Council and the Environment Agency, including on

improvement projects and their funding. This is to include assisting with funding and community awareness.

b) To encourage residents to maintain their watercourses.

c) To ensure residents report instances of blocked watercourses, e.g. by fly-tipping.

Objective 4. To encourage the provision of transport links that meet the needs of residents

Actions:

a) To lobby bus service providers to establish more regular services.

b) To look to introduce or improve cycle routes that link to centres of employment.

Objective 5. To encourage community involvement and establish community volunteer groups within all areas of Earnley Parish

Actions:

a) To establish neighbourhood "link people " or "parish links" in all areas of the parish.

b) To work closely with "parish links" to improve communication and community engagement with parish matters.

c) To establish litter picking, footpath and bridleway clearance and verge maintenance groups.

d) To work with and assist any residents' groups with their local agenda

Objective 6. To investigate the possibility of creating a parish focal point or village hall

Actions:

a) To identify an appropriate site or place as a focal point/ village hall where parish matters can take place, e.g. parish meetings, polling station. This is in collaboration with other groups and organisations active within the Parish.

Objective 7. To liaise with the owners of Earnley Concourse to encourage the most appropriate use of the site

Actions:

a) To work with the owners of Earnley Concourse to ensure its maximum use as a community resource.

b) To work with the owners of Earnley Concourse to provide local support and resources to help renew and keep its position as a significant local employer.

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